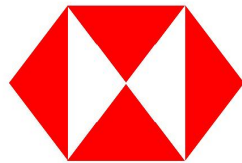
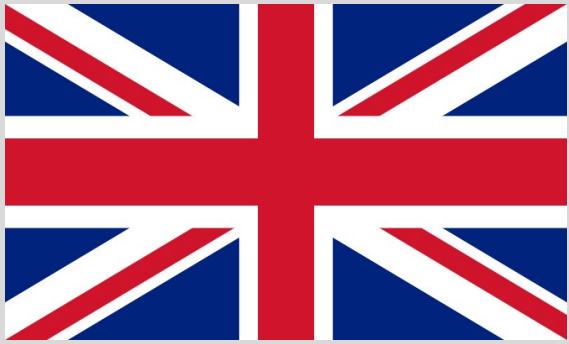
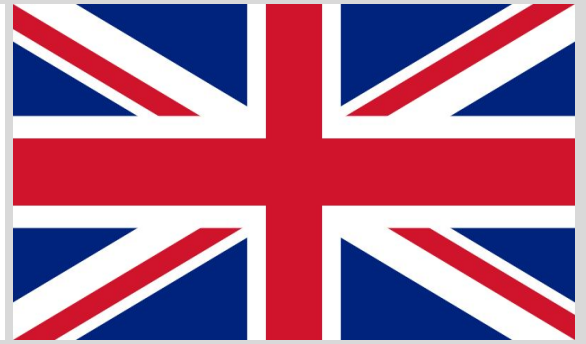


OPIUM WARS

Organized Crime?



HSBC



By William P. Litynski

From the Grassy Knoll in London: Lone Gunman or Patsy?

The Attempted Assassination of
Her Royal Majesty Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
outside the Buckingham Palace in London on June 10, 1840

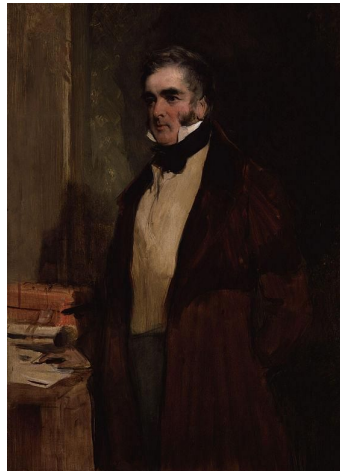


“I’m just a patsy!”: Edward Oxford (1822-1900), an 18-year-old “lone gunman”, attempts to assassinate 21-year-old Queen Victoria of Great Britain (1819-1901) and her husband Prince Albert outside the Buckingham Palace in London on June 10, 1840, during the ongoing Opium War with Imperial China. Queen Victoria of Great Britain and her husband Prince Albert escaped the assassination attempt unharmed. There were at least eight assassination attempts on Queen Victoria during her 63-year reign. **Was the attempted assassination of Queen Victoria on June 10, 1840 a political conspiracy?**

British Robber Barons during the First Opium War (1839-1842)



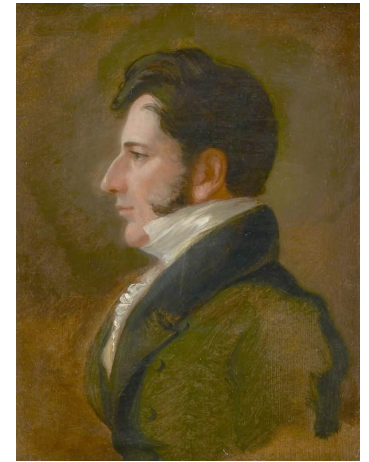
**Henry John Temple,
3rd Viscount Palmerston
(later Lord Palmerston)**
Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs
(18 April 1835–2 Sept. 1841,
6 July 1846–26 Dec. 1851)



**William Lamb,
2nd Viscount Melbourne**
Prime Minister of
Great Britain
(16 July 1834–14 Nov. 1834,
18 April 1835–30 Aug. 1841)



**Francis Thornhill Baring,
1st Baron Northbrook**
Chancellor of the Exchequer
(26 August 1839–
30 August 1841)
grandson of of Sir Francis
Baring, 1st Baronet, the
founder of Barings Bank



**Sir John Rae Reid,
2nd Baronet (1791–1867)**
Governor of the Bank of
England (1839–1841)



The Signing and Sealing of the Treaty of Nanking on August 29, 1842. Imperial China (Ching Dynasty) was required to cede Hong Kong to Great Britain and allow Great Britain to continue the opium trade. The First Opium War (鴉片戰爭, also known as the First Anglo-Chinese War) occurred from March 18, 1839 to August 29, 1842. The Second Opium War was fought from 1856 until 1860. (Source: [Brown University](#))

British Robber Barons during the Second Opium War (1856-1860)



**Henry John Temple,
3rd Viscount Palmerston
(later Lord Palmerston)**
Prime Minister of
Great Britain
(6 Feb. 1855–19 Feb. 1858;
12 June 1859–18 Oct. 1865)
Leader of the Opposition
(19 Feb. 1858–11 June 1859)



**Benjamin Disraeli,
1st Earl of Beaconsfield**
Chancellor of the Exchequer
(27 Feb. 1852–17 Dec. 1852;
26 Feb. 1858–11 June 1859;
6 July 1866–29 Feb. 1868);
British Jewish politician



**George Villiers,
4th Earl of Clarendon**
Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs
(21 February 1853–
26 February 1858;
1865-1866, 1868-1870)



Sir John Bowring
Governor of Hong Kong
(13 April 1854–
9 September 1859)



Lionel (Nathan) de Rothschild (1808-1879), a Member of Parliament for the City of London, is introduced in the House of Commons on July 26, 1858 by Lord John Russell and Mr. Abel Smith. Lionel de Rothschild was the son of Jewish banker Nathan Mayer Rothschild. (Painting by Henry Barraud, 1872; The Rothschild Archive)

Opium Wars: In Their Own Words



Gen. Smedley D. Butler

“WAR is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious. It is the only one international in scope. It is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives. A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of the people. Only a small “inside” group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few, at the expense of the very many. Out of war a few people make huge fortunes.”

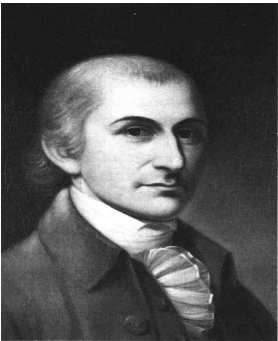
– Smedley D. Butler, Retired Major General of the U.S. Marine Corps, *War is a Racket*



Hermann Goering

“Why, of course the people don’t want war. Why would some poor slob on a farm want to risk his life in a war when the best that he can get out of it is to come back to his farm in one piece? Naturally, the common people don’t want war; neither in Russia nor in England, nor in America, nor for that matter in Germany. That is understood. But, after all, it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along whether it’s a democracy, a fascist dictatorship, a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. ...but voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same way in any country.”

– Hermann Goering, in a conversation with U.S. Army Captain Gustave Gilbert in a prison cell during the Nuremberg trials, on April 18, 1946. from *Nuremberg Diary*, by Gustave M. Gilbert



John Jay

“But the safety of the people of America against dangers from *foreign* force depends not only on their forbearing to give *just* causes of war to other nations, but also on their placing and continuing themselves in such a situation as not to *invite* hostility or insult; for it need not be observed that there are *pretended* as well as just causes of war. It is too true, however disgraceful it may be to human nature, that nations in general will make war whenever they have a prospect of getting anything by it; nay, absolute monarchs will often make war when their nations are to get nothing by it, but for the purposes and objects merely personal, such as thirst for military glory, revenge for personal affronts, ambition, or private compacts to aggrandize or support their particular families or partisans. These and a variety of other motives, which affect only the mind of the sovereign, often lead him to engage in wars not sanctified by justice or the voice and interests of his people.”

– John Jay, *Federalist* No. 4



James Madison

“Of all the enemies to public liberty war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded, because it comprises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debts and taxes; and armies, and debts, and taxes are the known instruments for bringing the many under the domination of the few. In war, too, the discretionary power of the Executive is extended; its influence in dealing out offices, honors, and emoluments is multiplied; and all the means of seducing the minds, are added to those of subduing the force, of the people. The same malignant aspect in republicanism may be traced in the inequality of fortunes, and the opportunities of fraud, growing out of a state of war, and in the degeneracy of manners and of morals engendered by both. No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare.”

– U.S. Congressman James Madison, from *Political Observations*, April 20, 1795

Opium Wars: Organized Crime?

The “China Trade” & The Rise of Hong Kong and Shanghai



The British Royal Navy destroys Chinese war junks (ships) on January 17, 1841 during the First Opium War.

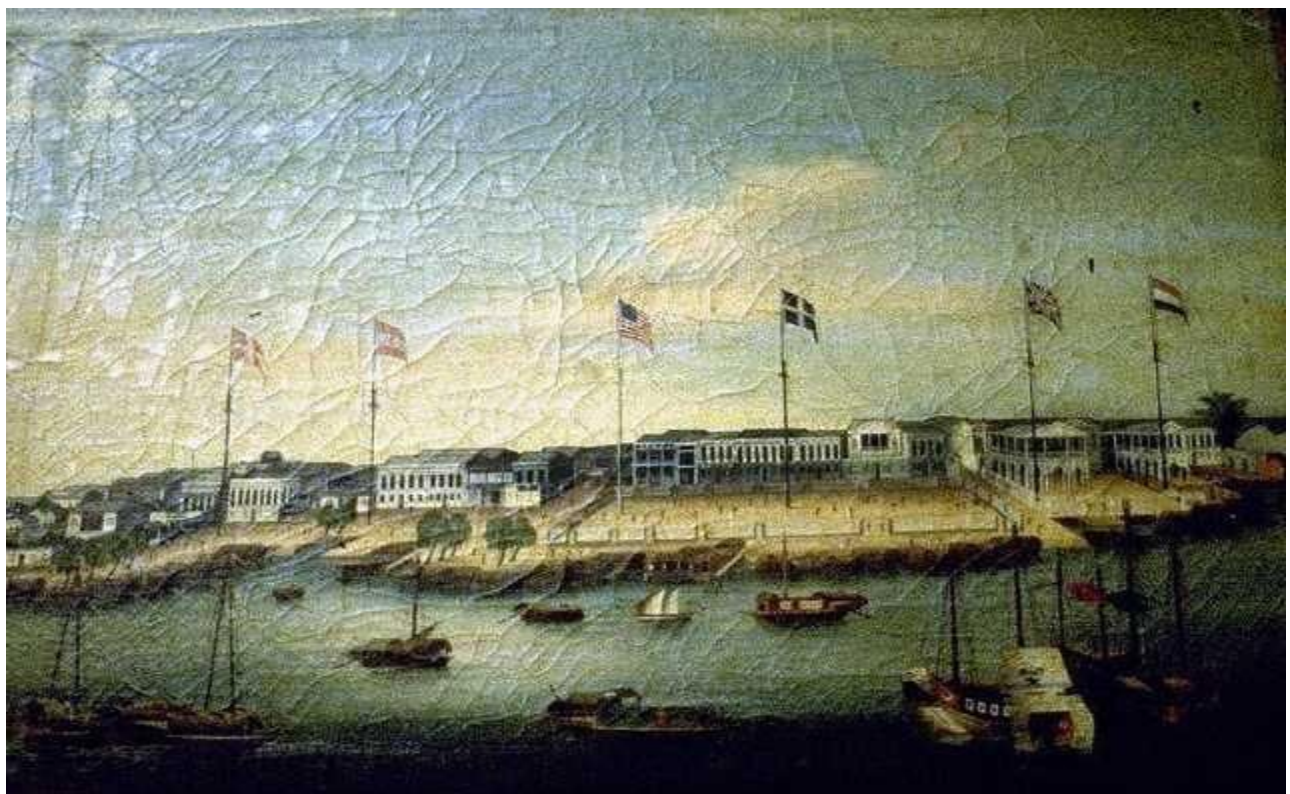
“Foreigners were until then confined to trading at the southern port of Canton. Great Britain had been trading with China through the East India Company since the late 1700s. But early in the nineteenth century she had a severe cash-flow problem. Her imports of Chinese teas and silks were far greater than the value of her exports to China; there was little demand for expensive British manufactured goods such as woolens, cotton, and metal products. With the mercantile conquest of India behind them, British traders were confident that they could develop another vast market in China if a few ports other than Canton could be opened to foreign exploitation. The lever Britain used to pry them open was opium. The primary source of opium then was India and the Middle East, monopolized by the British East India Company. Proper Englishmen like Dr. William Jardine, one of the greatest opium merchants, purchased raw opium from Indian growers for niggardly sums, and resold it to the Chinese through Hong Kong for ten times the amount. For a while, the British were successful in financing their imports of tea by smuggling opium to China, but as tea consumption rose, opium traffic had to be increased accordingly. Since the Manchu regime had banned opium trading, British ships carried their loads to the Portuguese colony of Macao, at the mouth of the Pearl River, unloaded the drug there, then sailed innocently into Canton harbor with legal cargoes. Later, when enough Manchu officials had become partners in the illicit trade, the opium was shipped directly into Canton, where it was stored brazenly in warehouses along the riverside. **The Americans became involved in the 1820s, and dignified firms such as Perkins & Company and Russell & Company of Boston engaged in immense opium traffic by clipper ship.** British and American traffic increased from 5,000 chests in 1821 to 39,000 chests in 1837. Britain’s share of this growth again balanced her imports of silks and teas, and stemmed the outflow of her silver. But not without hazard to China. The increased consumption of opium, despite imperial bans, was causing social calamity. More and more people, from landlords and aristocrats down to soldiers and prostitutes, became addicted. The seduction of Manchu officials into the trade caused government corruption to spread. Eventually, the silver flow was reversed, and Chinese silver began to rush toward Great Britain in alarming quantities. National pride and sovereignty were as much at stake as silver and opium. When Chinese officials crucified an opium smuggler in front of the Canton warehouses in December 1838, the foreign devils rushed out and broke up the wooden cross. Ten thousand Chinese rioted. The Westerners appealed to a powerful merchant they called Houqua – the Chinese kingpin of the opium traffic – and he bought off the local mandarins, setting a pattern for a century to come. **The Chinese government then insisted that all British captains must sign a bond that they would not carry opium into the country. Secretly, Americans began to carry British opium or to let British ships fly the Stars and Stripes into Canton.** The last straw came when a crew of drunken British sailors killed a Chinese villager in an argument. Their consul refused to allow them to be tried by a Chinese court. To retaliate, the Manchu government ordered all provisions to the British cut off. Great Britain declared war on October 1, 1839. British opium merchants had campaigned long and hard for this war, and they were its chief beneficiaries. A fleet led by the thirty-two-gun paddlewheeler *Nemesis* made short work of the Chinese navy. Humiliated, China paid a huge indemnity, opened five additional ports to British trade and residence, and exempted British subjects from Chinese justice. **Of all the new treaty ports, Shanghai was the gem.**” – *The Soong Dynasty* by Sterling Seagrave, p. 3-4



The Opium War (1839-1842): The British government under Queen Victoria waged war against the Manchurian-governed Chinese Empire in an attempt to allow corporate merchants such as Jardine, Matheson & Co. to sell opium in China. The Manchurian-governed Chinese Empire (Ch'ing Dynasty) ceded Hong Kong to Great Britain in 1842.



View of the Canton Factories, 1805-1806 by William Daniel (Painting: [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#))



The "factories" at Canton (廣州), China (Painting: U.S. Department of State)



Map of the Ching (Qing) Dynasty China in 1820



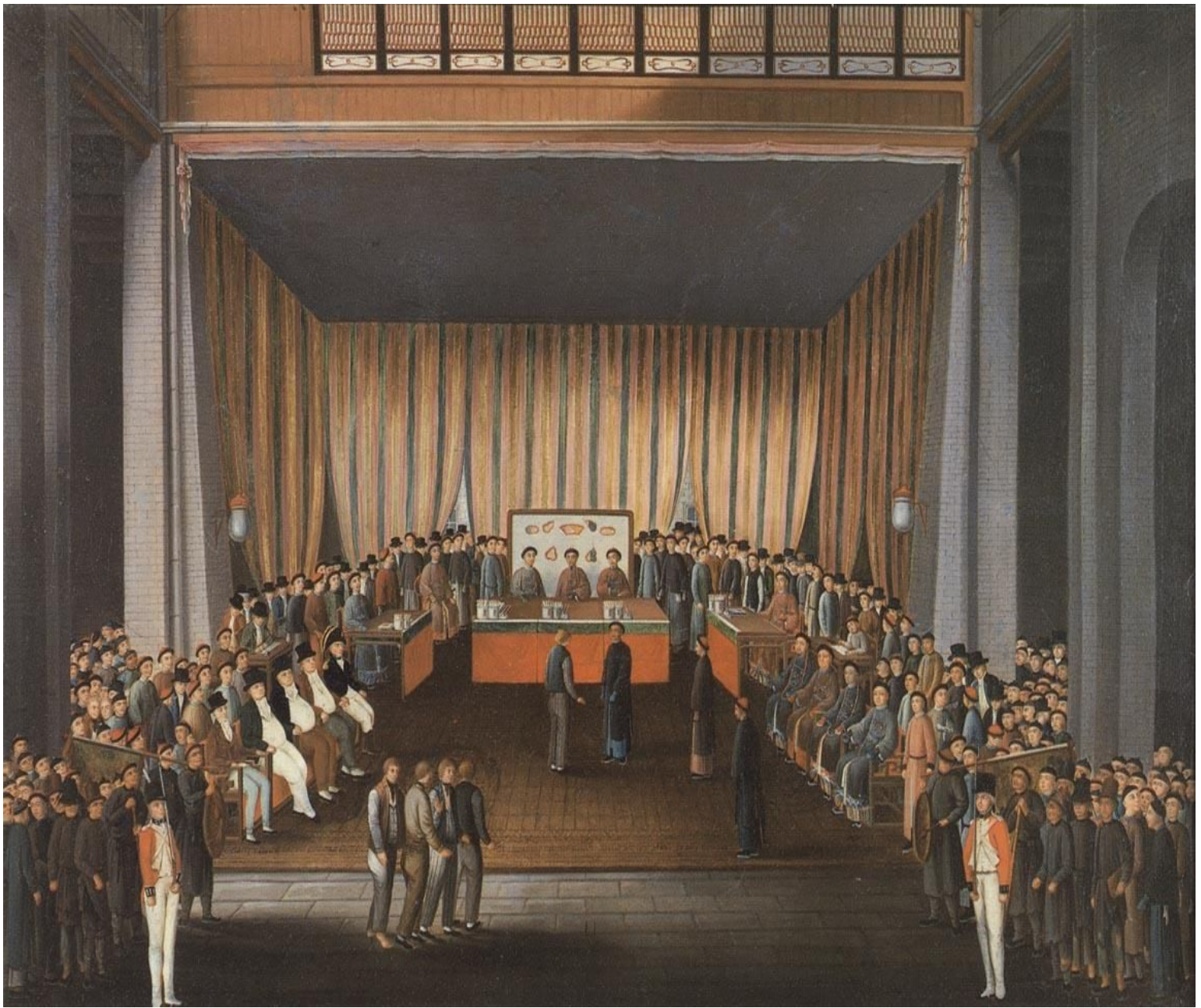
Flag of The Ching (Qing) Dynasty from 1890 to 1911



Six Flags over Canton, China: The first international shopping mall (factories) in the 19th century Far East



View of Hoppo Returning to Canton, late 18th century
(Painting: Hong Kong Museum of Art; [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#))



The Court of Inquiry in Canton presides over a trial for the sailors of the ship Neptune, after 1807. Two British soldiers appear in the foreground. (Painting: [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#))



No. 14. Factories from River. c. 1833. Oil.

G. Chinnery.

The view of the Factories at Canton from the river, which is crowded with junks and sampans, showing (left to right) American, British and Dutch flags in front of the respective factories. Companion picture to No. 15. Oil. 11 x 17 ¾ George Chinnery R.H.A. (1774-1852).

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~chaterfamilytree/chinnery.htm>



No. 15. Factories from Land. c. 1833 Oil.

G. Chinnery.

View, from land, of the open space in front of the French, American and other factories, many Chinese figures are shown – pedlars, barbers, etc., no Europeans; and an official procession is to be seen in the distance. French, American, British and Dutch flags. Bright colours, green shutters, matched in the foreground. Companion picture to No. 14. Oil. 11 x 17 ¾ George Chinnery R.H.A (1774-1852).

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~chaterfamilytree/chinnery.htm>



Macao, View of the Praya Grande, from a porch, circa 1840. Peabody Essex Museum 2007. (Photo: Jeffrey R. Dykes)
(Painting: [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#))



Loading Tea at Canton, circa 1852, The Canton waterfront is depicted from Honam Island where workers load a sampan with chests of tea. The 1847 church burned in 1856. Gouache on pith paper, Gift of the Estate of John Heard, 1931. Peabody Essex Museum 2007 Mark Sexton Photo (Painting: [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#))



No. 38. How-qua. c. 1830. Colour Print after G. Chinnery.

Wu Ping-chen, or How-Qua (also known as Houqua), was the senior Hong Merchant in Canton, China. How-Qua was born in 1769 and died in 1843. (Photo: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~chaterfamilytree/chinnery.htm>)



“Commissioner” Lin Tse-hsu (林則徐), the Chinese statesman who opposed the importation of opium into China and enforced the Chinese [Manchurian] laws that banned the importation and sale of opium.

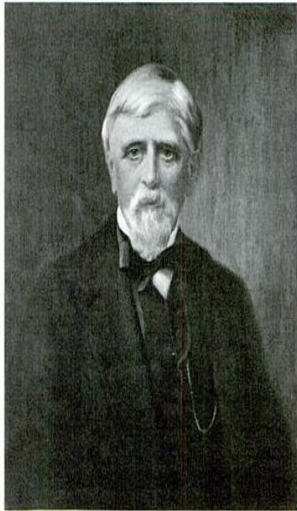


A painting of Lin Tse-hsu supervising the destruction of opium



Dr. Peter Parker appears with two Chinese patients in mainland China. Peter Parker served as U.S. Commissioner to China from 1856 until 1857, during the ongoing Second Opium War. Peter Parker earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Yale University in 1831.

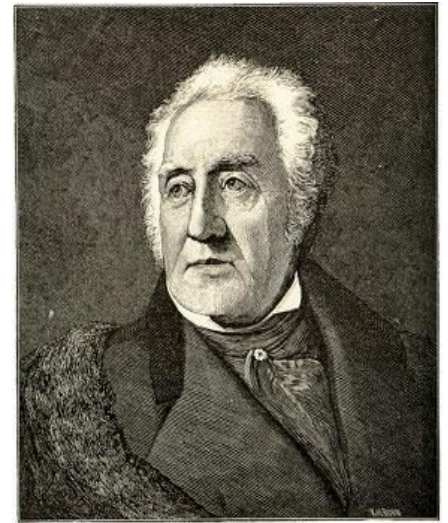
Prominent American Drug Dealers of the 19th Century



Portrait of
Joseph Coolidge IV
(1798-1879). By Alfred L.
Smith. Courtesy of
Harvard University,
Portrait Collection, Gift
of Joseph Randolph
Coolidge, 1981



Russell & Co. partners Joseph Coolidge IV (left), Samuel Russell (center), and Abiel Abbott Low (right)



Left to right: Warren Delano Jr., Robert Bennett Forbes, Augustine Heard, and Thomas H. Perkins

Russell & Co. partner Joseph Coolidge IV married Eleonora (Ellen) Randolph, the granddaughter of former U.S. President Thomas Jefferson on May 27, 1825. (Thomas Jefferson died at his home in Virginia on July 4, 1826.) Thomas Jefferson Coolidge, the former U.S. Minister to France, was the son of Joseph Coolidge and Ellen Randolph Coolidge. Archibald Cary Coolidge, a member and director of the Council on Foreign Relations during the 1920s, was the grandson of Joseph Coolidge and Ellen Randolph Coolidge.

Russell & Co. partner Warren Delano Jr. was the father of Frederic A. Delano, the Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve during World War I, and Sara Delano. Former U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the grandson of Warren Delano Jr. and the son of Sara Delano.

Russell & Co. partner Abiel Abbott Low was the father of Seth Low; Seth Low was the President of Columbia University from 1890 to 1901 and the Mayor of New York City from 1902 to 1903. Seth Low was the President of Columbia University during the Spanish-American War (1898-1899) and the Chinese Boxer Rebellion (1899-1900).

Russell & Co. partner and co-founder Samuel Russell was the great-grandson of William Russell, a trustee of Yale University from 1745 to 1761. Skull & Bones founder William Huntington Russell was also the great-grandson of William Russell, a trustee of Yale University from 1745 to 1761.



From a photograph

MASSACHUSETTS HUMANE SOCIETY 1854

Kindness of Frederic Cunningham

Left to right: Charles Amory, Francis Bacon, William Amory, Robert Bennet Forbes, Jonathan Mason Warren, David Sears, Benjamin W. Crowninshield, William Appleton, George B. Upton, John Homans, Samuel Hooper.
These men comprise some of the most influential Boston merchants and captains of their day.

Robert Bennet Forbes & Friends

Partners of Russell & Company

Samuel Russell – Co-Founder of Russell & Company in 1824

Philip Ammidon – Co-Founder of Russell & Company in 1824

Joseph Coolidge IV (1798-1879) (B.A. Harvard 1817)

John Perkins Cushing (1787-1862)

Edward Delano

Warren Delano, Jr.

John Murray Forbes (1813-1898) – President of Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad (1878-1881)

Paul Sieman Forbes

Robert Bennet Forbes – brother of John Murray Forbes

Joseph Taylor Gilman

John Cleve Green (1800-1875)

John N. Alsop Griswold

Augustine Heard (1785-1868)

William C. Hunter

Edward King

William Henry King (A.B. Brown 1838)

William G. Low

Abiel Abbott Low (1811-1893)

George Perkins

Thomas H. Perkins

Daniel Nicholson Spooner

Russell Sturgis (B.A. Harvard 1823)

“Joseph Coolidge IV, Lewis Coolidge’s first cousin once removed, was a well-known China trader. While still in his formative years, he traveled widely and made the acquaintance of the writers Washington Irving and Lord Byron...After Joseph Coolidge IV returned from Europe, he traveled in Virginia, where he met (and courted) Eleanor Wayles Randolph, the granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson. The two were married May 27, 1825. Joseph’s first business experience was in a joint venture with his first cousin, Thomas Bulfinch, from 1825 to 1832 as “American goods commission merchants.” At that point, Joseph left to begin his lengthy China work as a clerk for Russell and Company in Canton, while his cousin Thomas Bulfinch turned to his life’s work writing such books as *Bulfinch’s Mythology*, *The Age of Fable*, and *The Age of Chivalry*. In 1834, Joseph Coolidge returned from China and became a partner in Russell and Company. He then returned to China and spent most of the next few years there as well as some time in India. In 1840, he left Russell and Company and was one of the founders of the trading company of Augustine Heard and Company, which had China as its focus. With the outbreak of the Opium War between China and Britain shortly after the founding of Augustine Heard and Co., British subjects fled Canton, and with Joseph Coolidge IV as its principal Canton representative, Augustine Heard and Co. became the Canton agent of the giant English trader Jardine, Matheson, and Company. In 1844 Joseph left China and retired on his earnings from his China trade. His family continued in international trade.”

– *Lewis Coolidge and the Voyage of the Amethyst, 1806-1811* by Evabeth Miller Kienast and John Phillip Felt, p. 80-82

“Arriving at Hong Kong in 1838, he was welcomed by the principal partner of Russell and Company, John C. Green, and the junior members of the firm, Messrs. Abiel Abbot Low, Edward King, and William C. Hunter. His cousin and early backer, John Perkins Cushing, organizer of Russell and Company at Canton, had strongly recommended him to that firm. Having made his fortune, senior partner Green wished to return to the United States, and he felt that Forbes was the man to take his place. The arrangement went through despite the opposition of one member, Joseph Coolidge. Becoming general manager of Russell and Company, Forbes faced a crisis in the attempt of the Chinese government to drive out foreign-owned firms located in China. The Russell commission business had increased so rapidly in Canton that there was always a scarcity of partners capable of carrying their share of the burdens. Samuel Russell, whom Cushing had inspired to begin the partnership in 1824, retired in wealth from the firm twelve years afterwards, and thereafter it was carried on by numerous partners – Augustine Heard, William G. Low, John C. Green, John Murray Forbes, Joseph Coolidge, Abiel Abbott Low, Wm. C. Hunter, Robert Bennet Forbes, Warren Delano, Jr., Russell Sturgis, Daniel Nicholson Spooner, Joseph Taylor Gilman, Paul Sieman Forbes, George Perkins, Edward Delano, William Henry King, John N. Alsop Griswold, and as many again. Augustine Heard deserves more than mere mention. In Baker Library, Harvard University, there are 450 bound and unbound volumes of manuscripts relating to three generations of the Heard family. Augustine, in his twentieth year, went to China as a supercargo. The shrewd John Perkins Cushing marked him as a likely fellow and, after the youth had proved himself, took him into the firm of Russell and Company. In 1833, Augustine was the sole partner of the firm in China. Breaking under the strain, he returned to Boston. Afterwards, with Joseph Coolidge, former Russell partner, Augustine formed the firm of Augustine Heard and Company, which became, with the firms of Russell, Olyphant, and Wetmore, the Big Four. Augustine brought four nephews into the firm. As traders in tea and opium, the Heard firm pursued the same activities as Russell Company...For the Russell partners and some of their competitors, there was a fascinating element of speculation in the opium traffic. When the price of the narcotic became depressed the rich members of foreign firms bought it up cheap and stored it in their warehouses, with the result that a chest bought for \$150 could be sold for \$500 or \$700; and when there was a great scarcity, the demand forced the price up to \$1000 or more.”

– *Yankee Ships in China Seas: Adventures of Pioneer Americans in the Troubled Far East* by Daniel M. Henderson, p. 153-155

“The original partners in Russell & Co., one of the best-known American firms then doing business at Canton, China, were Samuel Russell and Philip Ammidon. William H. Low, Augustine Heard, John M. Forbes, John C. Green, Warren Delano, W. C. Hunter, Joseph Coolidge, Russell Sturgis, Richard Starr Dana, W. H. Forbes, R. B. Forbes, Paul S. Forbes, J. Murray Forbes, and Edward King were, at one time or other, partners in this firm. The firm was founded in 1818 by Samuel Russell, of Middletown, Conn., and was first known as Samuel Russell & Co. In 1824 the firm became Russell & Co., and had a career rarely equalled in the Chinese trade. John Perkins Cushing, who had been a representative of J. & T. H. Perkins in China, was one of those who had much to do with the starting of the firm, as he transferred to Russell & Co. a portion of the commission business which had grown too large for Perkins & Co. to handle. The cause of the Opium War, which interrupted trade for a time, was a peculiarly flagrant piece of smuggling, which so aroused the Chinese government that its commissioner appeared at the foreign settlement, demanded the opium, and dumped it into the ditches. The trouble was finally adjusted by England compelling China to pay an indemnity, and trade was resumed. The opium had been brought for some time from India in the swift-sailing vessels, or “clippers,” we have already described, and was smuggled into Canton by various means. As all foreigners lived in a narrow suburb on the river and were never allowed within the city, business was transacted with Chinese middlemen, one of whom, Houqua, was ever the warm friend of Russell & Co.”

– *Some Ships of the Clipper Ship Era: Their Builders, Owners, and Captains* by The State Street Trust Company (1913), p. 9-10

“John Perkins Cushing, called “Ku-Shing” by the Chinese, sailed for China when only sixteen years old, to take the position of clerk in the counting-house of his uncle, Colonel Thomas Handasyd Perkins. The head of the firm in China at this time was Ephraim Bumstead, who was soon obliged to leave Canton on account of illness, and died at sea. Young Cushing, therefore, arrived in China at this early age to find that he was the only representative of the Perkins firm in the East. Colonel Perkins, on hearing of Mr. Bumstead’s death, at once prepared to go to China, but just before sailing he received letters from the young apprentice, who presented

the condition of affairs in such a favorable light that the intended journey was abandoned. Cushing managed the affairs of the firm so skillfully that the consignments continually increased. He was soon taken into partnership with the Perkinses and continued with them until the consolidation of their firm with Russell & Co. in 1827.”

– *Other Merchants and Sea Captains of Old Boston*, State Street Trust Company, p. 17-18

“**Russell & Co.** was the largest American opium smuggler, and the third largest in the world, behind the British Dent firm and the largest smuggler of all, the Scottish merchants **Jardine-Matheson**. For many years Russell & Co. and Jardine-Matheson worked together and were known as the “Combination.” They virtually controlled the trade, manipulating market forces towards maximizing profits. Russell & Co. was started in 1824 by Samuel Russell of Middletown, Connecticut. In 1828, it “absorbed” the T.H. Perkins opium concern of Boston and became America’s dominant force in China. Russell & Co. was very much a family affair, with uncles, cousins, brothers, fathers and sons dominating the firm and its allied banks and fronts. The Russell family was steeped in Yale College history. The Rev. Nodiah Russell was a Yale founder. And in 1832, General William Huntington Russell, Samuel Russell’s cousin, founded one of the U.S.’ most famous secret societies: the Order of Skull and Bones, along with Alphonso Taft. Taft’s son, future President William Howard Taft (S&B 1878) would play many roles in the creation of international narcotics controls and the U.S. Drug War.” – *Fleshing Out Skull & Bones* by Kris Millegan, p. 153

“During that first Opium War, the chief of operations for **Russell & Co.** in Canton was Warren Delano, Jr., grandfather of Franklin Roosevelt. He was also the U.S. vice-consul and once wrote home, “The High officers of the [Chinese] Government have not only connived at the trade, but the Governor and other officers of the province have bought the drug and have taken it from the stationed ships in their own Government boats.” Wu Ping-chen, or Howqua II, the leading “hong” merchant, was considered by some to be one of the world’s richest men, worth over \$26 million in 1833. The profits were huge and many fortunes were made. Warren Delano went home with one, lost it and went back to China to get more. Russell & Co. partners included John Cleve Green, a banker and railroad investor who made large donations to and was a trustee for Princeton; A. Abiel Low, a shipbuilder, merchant and railroad owner who backed Columbia University; and merchants Augustine Heard and Joseph Coolidge. Coolidge’s son organized the United Fruit Company, and his grandson Archibald C. Coolidge, was a cofounder of the Council on Foreign Relations. Partner John M. Forbes “dominated the management” of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, with Charles Perkins as president. Other partners and captains included Joseph Taylor Gilman, William Henry King, John Alsop Griswold, Captain Lovett and Captain J. Prescott. Captain Prescott called on F.T. Bush, Esq., his friend and agent in Hong Kong frequently. Russell & Co. families, relations and friends are well represented in the Order of Skull & Bones. After the first Opium War, the port of Shanghai was opened up, with Russell & Co. as one of its first foreign merchants. In 1841, Russell brought the first steam ship to Chinese waters and continued to develop e transportation routes as long as opium made them profitable. Russell partners were also involved in early railroad ventures in China, together with U.S. railroad magnate E.H. Harriman, whose sons later became very active in Skull & Bones. The second Opium War led to the legalization of opium in China in 1858...” – *Fleshing Out Skull & Bones* by Kris Millegan, p. 155-156

“...[D]uring the first years of Hong Kong, Messrs. Jardine and Matheson stored not only their bullion but the drugs that their swift armed clippers would distribute up and down the China coast...for Hong Kong frankly depended then upon the profits of the narcotics trade...In 1844 the Governor himself declared that almost anyone with any capital in the colony was either in the government service, or else in the drug trade. For every British warship in the roads, there were likely to be two or three opium clippers, as splendidly equipped, as confidently dressed as any frigate. The flag above the General’s residence was no more assertive than the flag above the Jardine, Matheson headquarters at East Point, half a mile along the shore. Hong Kong’s government might be clothing itself in consequence; in cash it was far outshone by the merchant community, which brought to the colony all the insolent panache it had developed at Guangzhou [Canton]...Within a few years of the colony’s settlement dozens of merchant companies had come to Hong Kong, together with European shopkeepers, physicians, publicans and miscellaneous commercial men. Most of the companies were British or Indian, but they included American, German, Italian, Dutch and French concerns, and they were dominated by three old familiars from Guangzhou: Jardine, Matheson, the most famous or notorious of them all, with five partners and twenty European assistants; Dent and Company, their chief rivals, with five partners and eight assistants; and the American Russell and Company, with six partners and eight assistants. Life in Hong Kong really revolved not around the Governor, but around these formidable hongts and their bosses, the taipans. Not only were they the shipowners, the warehouse men, the accountants, the agents and the chandlers of the colony, but they also played the parts of insurers and bankers. It was they who had induced the British government to acquire this island, and they considered themselves its true possessors...William Jardine himself, who never came to Hong Kong, had spent only twelve years on the China coast; his partner, James Matheson, presently went home after nineteen years; but other Jardines, other Mathesons and lateral descendants of both clans were to remain in Hong Kong for generations.” – *Hong Kong* by Jan Morris, p. 78-79

“The opium-fed China trade made fortunes for Englishmen, Scotsmen, Parsis in India. Also for Americans, from families subsequently prominent in Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore. In the time of the slave trade, it was to many just another business, no worse than dealing in alcoholic spirits. In the Baker Library at the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, I read correspondence of **Russell & Co.**, the biggest American opium-trading firm in the 1830s. Among its partners then: Joseph Coolidge, Robert Bennett Forbes, Warren Delano, Jr. ...Some were eventually invested in transcontinental railroads and industrial expansion after the Civil War.”

– National Geographic magazine, February 1985, *The Poppy: For Good and Evil*, p. 163-164

“...[I]n the Golden Triangle – the Burma-Thailand-Laos area of Southeast Asia...U.S. government estimates say about 20 percent of the heroin consumed in the U.S. comes from poppies growing here, near hundreds of villages scattered at 3,000 feet or higher, by the mountain people, as they’re called in Thailand – the Yao, Hmong, and Akha; the Lahu and Lisu. They produce rice to eat and opium for medicine and for cash, to put into silver bars or ornaments, maybe a good rifle or a radio, or more pigs or a buffalo.

Extensive poppy growing began here in the 19th century...Taking the opium to laboratories – to be turned into morphine base or heroin – makes for a lot of coming and going by caravans of pack mules...This is a hallmark of Golden Triangle traffic: the involvement of sizable forces of armed outlaws. They're from minorities in revolt against the Burma government, such as SUA, the Shan United Army. And the KMT, or Kuomintang soldiers – remnants of anti-Communist armies that left China after Mao's victory, now settled in northern Thailand." – National Geographic magazine, February 1985, *The Poppy: For Good and Evil*, p. 170

Excerpts from *George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography* by Webster G. Tarpley & Anton Chaitkin, Chapter 7 (Skull and Bones: The Racist Nightmare at Yale)

Skull and Bones--the Russell Trust Association--was first established among the class graduating from Yale in 1833. Its founder was William Huntington Russell of Middletown, Connecticut. The Russell family was the master of incalculable wealth derived from the largest U.S. criminal organization of the nineteenth century: Russell and Company, the great opium syndicate.

There was at that time a deep suspicion of, and national revulsion against, freemasonry and secret organizations in the United States, fostered in particular by the anti-masonic writings of former U.S. President John Quincy Adams. Adams stressed that those who take oaths to politically powerful international secret societies cannot be depended on for loyalty to a democratic republic.

But the Russells were protected as part of the multiply-intermarried grouping of families then ruling Connecticut (see accompanying chart). The blood-proud members of the Russell, Pierpont, Edwards, Burr, Griswold, Day, Alsop and Hubbard families were prominent in the pro-British party within the state. Many of their sons would be among the members chosen for the Skull and Bones Society over the years.

The background to Skull and Bones is a story of Opium and Empire, and a bitter struggle for political control over the new U.S. republic.

Samuel Russell, second cousin to Bones founder William H., established Russell and Company in 1823. Its business was to acquire opium from Turkey and smuggle it into China, where it was strictly prohibited, under the armed protection of the British Empire.

The prior, predominant American gang in this field had been the syndicate created by Thomas Handasyd Perkins of Newburyport, Massachusetts, an aggregation of the self-styled "blue bloods" or Brahmins of Boston's north shore. Forced out of the lucrative African slave trade by U.S. law and Caribbean slave revolts, leaders of the Cabot, Lowell, Higginson, Forbes, Cushing and Sturgis families had married Perkins siblings and children. The Perkins opium syndicate made the fortune and established the power of these families. By the 1830s, the Russells had bought out the Perkins syndicate and made Connecticut the primary center of the U.S. opium racket. Massachusetts families (Coolidge, Sturgis, Forbes and Delano) joined Connecticut (Alsop) and New York (Low) smuggler-millionaires under the Russell auspices.

(Certain of the prominent Boston opium families, such as Cabot and Weld, did not affiliate directly with Russell, Connecticut and Yale, but were identified instead with Harvard.)

John Quincy Adams and other patriots had fought these men for a quarter century by the time the Russell Trust Association was set up with its open pirate emblem--Skull and Bones.

With British ties of family, shipping and merchant banking, the old New England Tories had continued their hostility to American independence after the Revolutionary War of 1775-83. These pretended conservative patriots proclaimed Thomas Jefferson's 1801 presidential inauguration "radical usurpation."

The Massachusetts Tories ("Essex Junto") joined with Vice President Aaron Burr, Jr. (a member of the Connecticut Edwards and Pierpont families) and Burr's cousin and law partner Theodore Dwight, in political moves designed to break up the United States and return it to British allegiance.

The U.S. nationalist leader, former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton, exposed the plan in 1804. Burr shot him to death in a duel, then led a famous abortive conspiracy to form a new empire in the Southwest, with territory to be torn from the U.S.A. and Spanish Mexico. For the "blue bloods," the romantic figure of Aaron Burr was ever afterwards the symbol of British feudal revenge against the American republic.

The Connecticut Tory families hosted the infamous Hartford Convention in 1815, toward the end of the second war between the U.S. and Britain (the War of 1812). Their secessionist propaganda was rendered impotent by America's defensive military victory. This faction then retired from the open political arena, pursuing instead entirely private and covert alliances with the British Empire. The incestuously intermarried Massachusetts and Connecticut families associated themselves with the British East India Company in the criminal opium traffic into China. These families made increased profits as partners and surrogates for the British during the bloody 1839-42 Opium War, the race war of British forces against Chinese defenders.

Samuel and William Huntington Russell were quiet, wary builders of their faction's power. An intimate colleague of opium gangster Samuel Russell wrote this about him:

While he lived, no friend of his would venture to mention his name in print. While in China, he lived for about twenty-five years almost as a hermit, hardly known outside of his factory [the Canton warehouse compound] except by the chosen few who enjoyed his intimacy, and by his good friend, Hoqua [Chinese security director for the British East India Company], but studying commerce in its broadest sense, as well as its minutest details. Returning home with well-earned wealth he lived hospitably in the midst of his family, and a small circle of intimates. Scorning words and pretensions from the bottom of his heart, he was the truest and staunchest of friends; hating notoriety, he could always be absolutely counted on for every good work which did not involve publicity.

The Russells' Skull and Bones Society was the most important of their domestic projects "which did not involve publicity."

A police-blotter type review of Russell's organization will show why the secret order, though powerful, was not the unique organ of "conspiracy" for the U.S. Eastern Establishment. The following gentlemen were among Russells' partners:

Augustine Heard (1785-1868): ship captain and pioneer U.S. opium smuggler.

John Cleve Green (1800-75): married to Sarah Griswold; gave a fortune in opium profits to Princeton University, financing three Princeton buildings and four professorships; trustee of the Princeton Theological Seminary for 25 years.

Abiel Abbott Low (1811-93): his opium fortune financed the construction of the Columbia University New York City campus; father of Columbia's president Seth Low.

John Murray Forbes (1813-98): his opium millions financed the career of author Ralph Waldo Emerson, who married Forbes's daughter, and bankrolled the establishment of the Bell Telephone Company, whose first president was Forbes's son.

Joseph Coolidge: his Augustine Heard agency got \$10 million yearly as surrogates for the Scottish dope-runners Jardine Matheson during the fighting in China; his son organized the United Fruit Company; his grandson, Archibald Cary Coolidge, was the founding executive officer of the Anglo-Americans' Council on Foreign Relations.

Warren Delano, Jr.: chief of Russell and Co. in Canton; grandfather of U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Russell Sturgis: his grandson by the same name was chairman of the Baring Bank in England, financiers of the Far East opium trade.

Such persons as John C. Green and A.A. Low, whose names adorn various buildings at Princeton and Columbia Universities, made little attempt to hide the criminal origin of their influential money. Similarly with the Cabots, the Higginsons and the Welds for Harvard. The secret groups at other colleges are analogous and closely related to Yale's Skull and Bones.

Princeton has its "eating clubs," especially Ivy Club and Cottage Club, whose oligarchical tradition runs from Jonathan Edwards and Aaron Burr through the Dulles brothers. At Harvard there is the ultra-blue-blooded Porcelian (known also as the Porc or Pig club); Theodore Roosevelt bragged to the German Kaiser of his membership there; Franklin Roosevelt was a member of the slightly "lower" Fly Club.

* * * *

"In this endeavor, Latimer was abetted by young Samuel Russell of Providence, Rhode Island, who came to Canton the same summer and set up the factory of Russell and Company on Thirteen Factories Street. He went into business with an old China hand, Philip Ammidon, supercargo for the venerable Baltimore house of Brown, Benson and Ives. (Brown and Ives had the distinction, in 1796, to run the first crate of India opium straight from Calcutta to Baltimore.) While Ammidon courted the Parsee drug shippers of India, Russell opened up fruitful areas of cooperation and corruption with Jardine-Matheson... These wholly unscrupulous privateers, to get around all inhibitions posed by the Honourable Company's government-backed monopoly, began washing their opium sycee through the London bank accounts of the American firms, which were impervious to Company scrutiny. Before long, Wilcocks and Russell were suitably established to join in on the lucrative mother-ship opium trade at Lintin Island... The East India Company's opium monopoly was on its last legs; Joseph Jardine was in Parliament now, lobbying forcefully for the complete opening of trade to independent shippers, and even London's very prestigious Dent and Company had gone heavily into opium carriage... All the Americans agreed it was time to take the money and clear out.

Cushing brought in some Boston relatives in 1829, to take up the traces on his retirement. The most promising of the lot was young Robert Bennett Forbes, who replaced Sturgis as supercargo for the Lintin mother-ship operation. His brother, Thomas Tunno Forbes, took up the overall business from Cushing, and was soon after drowned in a typhoon. He left a will handing over the Perkins combine to Russell and Company...Cushing and Samuel Russell were bosom chums by now, both incredibly wealthy and set to retire.” – *Flowers in the Blood: The Story of Opium* by Dean Latimer and Jeff Goldberg, p. 175-176



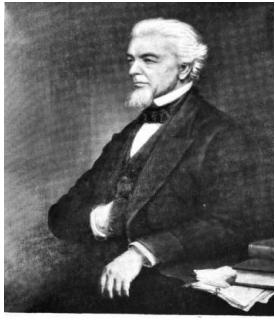
Russell & Co. headquarters (third building from left, front row) on the Bund in Shanghai (上海), Communist China. (Photo: [Flickr](#))

“Dutch sailors introduced tobacco smoking to Formosa (now Taiwan) in the 1600s; Chinese colonists there mixed tobacco with opium and introduced that mixture to the mainland, where tobacco was dropped and opium smoked along. This became crucial in the China trade. Foreigners wanted Chinese silks and tea; the emperor permitted them to come, to the port of Canton – but Chinese demand for foreign goods was small, so traders had to pay with silver, increasingly expensive, a problem. The solution was opium, brought by American ships from Turkey by Britishers from India. The emperor in Peking had forbidden opium, but mandarins at Canton could be persuaded...Opium smoking spread, and the mandarins became tougher, so the foreigners moored storage ships in the mouth of the Pearl River, just outside Chinese jurisdiction. As more opium poured in, Chinese smugglers had to pay for it with more and more silver. For the product of the poppy keeps increasing the demand for it. And so the **British East India Company** grew ever more poppies in India, for opium to be auctioned in Calcutta. Then, swift opium clippers carried it 3,700 miles to those storage ships off Canton. About a sixth of India’s revenues and, via Britain’s import tax on tea, much of the money for the Royal Navy came from the opium trade. A British historian says it was probably the largest commerce of its time in any commodity. As the flood of opium imports kept rising, China was drained of silver, and the emperor decreed drastic countermeasures. He sent an incorruptible commissioner, Lin Tse-hsu, who took the foreign merchants in Canton hostage until they turned over all their stored opium. He destroyed it. Thereupon the British sent warships and troops. The Chinese defenders

were crushed. Results of the fateful Opium War: First off, the Treaty of Nanking, 1842, giving Hong Kong to Britain, plus vast indemnity payments and the opening of more ports to foreigners. Eventually, foreign-ruled enclaves, or “concessions” – British, French, German. And lasting bitterness in China – a virulent ingredient in the social and political ferment that would lead to one of the most momentous upheavals of the 20th century.

– National Geographic magazine, February 1985, The Poppy: For Good and Evil, p. 162-163

Prominent Yale Graduates and Their Occupation during the First Opium War (1839-1842)



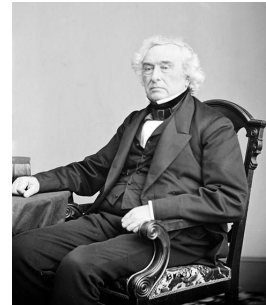
William W. Ellsworth
William Wolcott Ellsworth
B.A. Yale 1810
Governor of Connecticut
(1838-1842)



Henry Baldwin
B.A. Yale 1797
Justice of the U.S.
Supreme Court
(1830-1844)



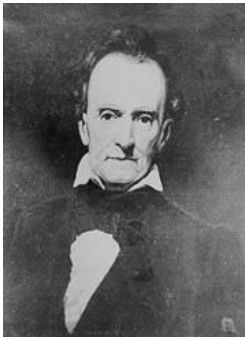
John C. Calhoun
B.A. Yale 1804
U.S. Senator
(D-South Carolina,
1832-1843, 1845-1850)



Francis Granger
B.A. Yale 1811
Postmaster General of
the U.S. (1841); U.S.
Congressman (Whig-New
York, 1835-1837,
1839-1841, 1841-1843)



Roger Sherman Baldwin
B.A. Yale 1811
Member of Connecticut
State House of Rep.
(1840-1841)



Asher Robbins
B.A. Yale 1782
U.S. Senator
(Whig-Rhode Island,
1825-1839)



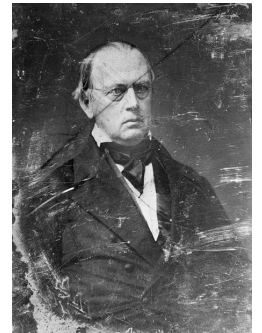
Jabez W. Huntington
B.A. Yale 1806
U.S. Senator
(W-Conn., 1840-1847)



Isaac Chapman Bates
B.A. Yale 1802
U.S. Senator
(Whig-Mass., 1841-1845)



Samuel S. Phelps
B.A. Yale 1811
U.S. Senator
(Whig-Vermont,
1839-1851, 1853-1854)



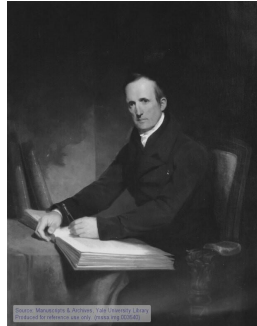
Truman Smith
B.A. Yale 1815
U.S. Congressman
(Whig-Connecticut,
1839-1843, 1845-1849)



Augustus B. Longstreet
B.A. Yale 1813
President of Emory
College [Atlanta, Georgia]
(1840-1848)



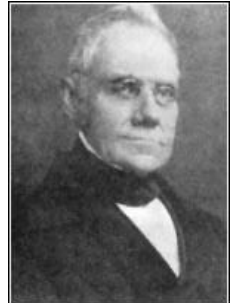
Abraham B. Hasbrouck
B.A. Yale 1810
President of Rutgers
College (1840-1850)



Rev. Jeremiah Day
B.A. Yale 1795
President of Yale
University (1817-1846)



Heman Humphrey
B.A. Yale 1805
President of Amherst
College (1823-1845)



William Maxwell
B.A. Yale 1802
President of
Hampden-Sydney
College [Virginia]
(1838-1845)



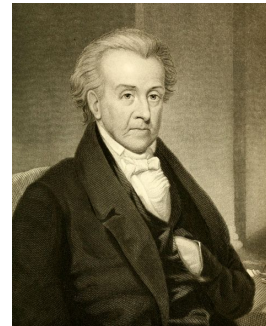
Julius Rockwell
B.A. Yale 1826
Massachusetts State
Bank Commissioner
(1838-1840)



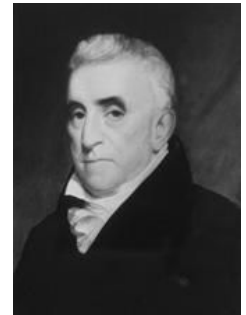
John Davis
B.A. Yale 1812



Lyman Beecher
B.A. Yale 1797



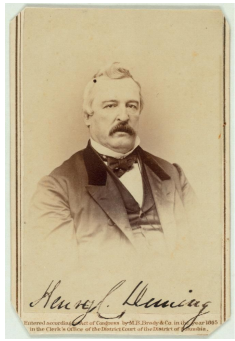
John Cotton Smith
B.A. Yale 1783



David Daggett
B.A. Yale 1783
Professor of Law at Yale
University (1826-1848)

	U.S. Senator (Whig-Massachusetts, 1835-1841, 1845-1853)	President of Lane Theological Seminary [Cincinnati] (1832-1850)	President of the American Bible Society (1831-1845)	
--	---	---	--	--

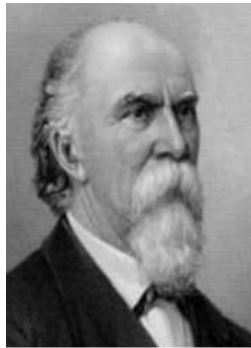
Prominent Yale Graduates and Harvard Graduates and Their Occupation during the Second Opium War (1856-1860)



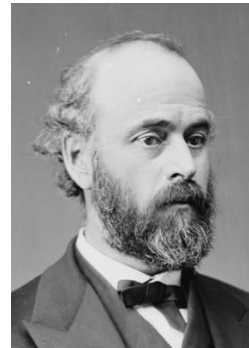
Henry Champion Deming
B.A. Yale 1836
Mayor of Hartford,
Connecticut
(1854-1858, 1860-1862);
**Member of
Skull & Bones**



Joseph Parrish
Thompson
B.A. Yale 1838
Pastor of the Broadway
Tabernacle in New York
City (1845-1871);
**Member of
Skull & Bones**



Henry Rootes Jackson
B.A. Yale 1839
U.S. Minister to Austrian
Empire (1854-1858);
**Member of
Skull & Bones**



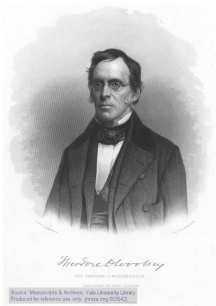
Orris S. Ferry
B.A. Yale 1844
U.S. Congressman
(Republican-Connecticut,
1859-1861);
**Member of
Skull & Bones**



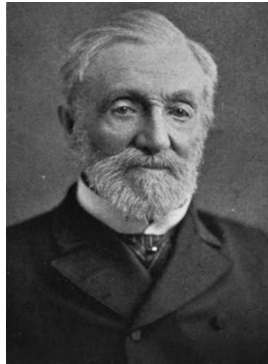
Richard Taylor
B.A. Yale 1845
Louisiana State Senator
(1856-1861);
**Member of
Skull & Bones**



Augustus B. Longstreet
B.A. Yale 1813
President of University of
South Carolina
(1857-1861)



Rev. Theodore Dwight
Woolsey
B.A. Yale 1820
President of Yale
University (1846-1871)



William Warner Hoppin
B.A. Yale 1828
Governor of Rhode Island
(1854-1857)



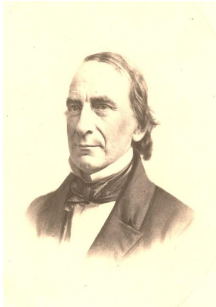
Frederick A.P. Barnard
B.A. Yale 1828
President of University of
Mississippi (1856-1858)



Trusten Polk
B.A. Yale 1831
U.S. Senator
(D-Missouri, 1857-1862)



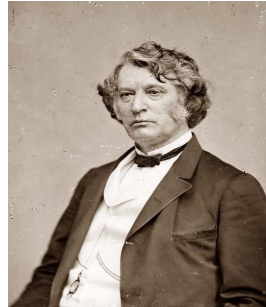
Lemuel Shaw
B.A. Harvard 1800
Chief Justice of the
Supreme Court of
Massachusetts
(1830-1860)



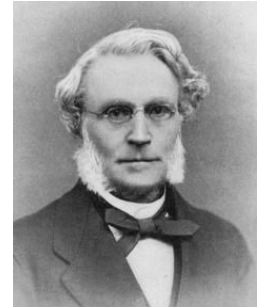
James Walker
B.A. Harvard 1814
President of Harvard
University (1853-1860)



Caleb Cushing
B.A. Harvard 1817
U.S. Attorney General
(1853-1857)

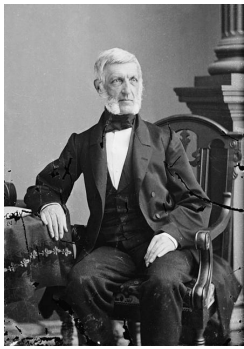


Charles Sumner
B.A. Harvard 1830
U.S. Senator
(R-Massachusetts,
1851-1874)



William Augustus Stearns
B.A. Harvard 1827
President of Amherst
College (1854-1876)

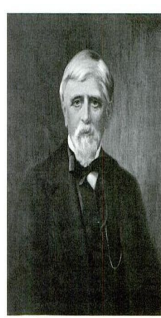
Prominent Harvard Graduates and Their Occupation during the First Opium War (1839-1842)



George Bancroft
B.A. Harvard 1817;
Ph.D. Gottingen 1820
Collector of the Port of
Boston (1838-1841)



Caleb Cushing
B.A. Harvard 1817
U.S. Congressman
(Whig-Massachusetts,
1835-1843)



Portrait of
Joseph Coolidge IV
(1798-1875). By Alfred L.
Smith. Courtesy of
Harvard University.
Portrait Collection, Gift
of Joseph Randolph
Coolidge, 1981

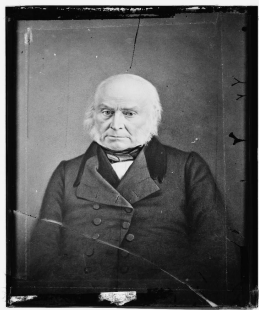
Joseph Coolidge
B.A. Harvard 1817
Partner of Russell & Co.
opium syndicate
(1834-1840)



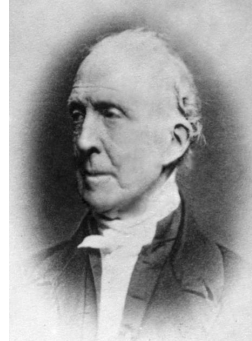
Samuel A. Eliot
B.A. Harvard 1817
Mayor of Boston
(1837-1839)



Alva Woods
B.A. Harvard 1817
inaugural President of
University of Alabama
(1831-1837)



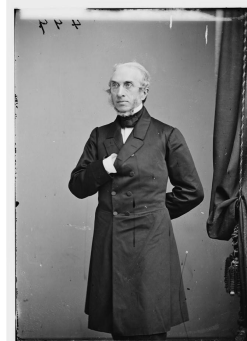
John Quincy Adams
B.A. Harvard 1787
U.S. Congressman
(Whig-Mass., 1831-1848);
Overseer of Harvard
University (1830-1848)



Josiah Quincy
B.A. Harvard 1790
President of Harvard
University (1829-1845)



Edward Everett
B.A. Harvard 1811
Ph.D. Gottingen 1817
U.S. Minister to Great
Britain (1841-1845); Gov.
of Massachusetts
(1836-1840)



Robert Charles Winthrop
B.A. Harvard 1828
U.S. Congressman
(Whig-Massachusetts,
1840-1842, 1842-1850)



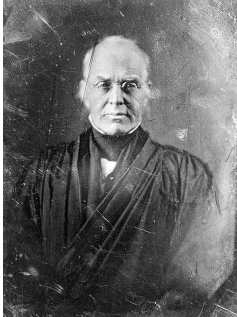
Leverett Saltonstall
B.A. Harvard 1802
U.S. Congressman
(Whig-Massachusetts,
1838-1843)



Robert Rantoul Jr.
B.A. Harvard 1826
Member of
Massachusetts State
Board of Education
(1837-1842)



Lemuel Shaw
B.A. Harvard 1800
Chief Justice of the
Supreme Court of
Massachusetts
(1830-1860)



Joseph Story
B.A. Harvard 1798
Justice of U.S. Supreme
Court (1811-1845)



Robert W. Barnwell
B.A. Harvard 1821
President of University of
South Carolina
(1835-1841)



Charles Gordon Atherton
B.A. Harvard 1822
U.S. Congressman
(Democrat-New
Hampshire, 1837-1843)

Yale University Graduates and Their Occupation during the First Opium War (1839-1842)

U.S. Government Officials:

George Edmund Badger (B.A. 1813) – Secretary of the Navy (1841)
Henry L. Ellsworth (B.A. 1810) – U.S. Commissioner of Patents (1835-1845)
Henry Baldwin (B.A. 1797) – Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (1830-1844)
Francis Granger (B.A. 1811) – Postmaster General of the U.S. (1841); U.S. Congressman (Whig-New York, 1835-1837, 1839-1841, 1841-43)
William Henry Jones (B.A. 1796) – Postmaster of New Haven, Connecticut (May 3, 1814- January 18, 1842)
George C. Woodruff (B.A. 1825) – Postmaster of Litchfield, Connecticut (January 4, 1832-January 27, 1842, Sept. 2, 1842-Sept. 28, 1846)
John C. Calhoun (B.A. 1804) – U.S. Senator (Democrat-South Carolina, 1832-1843, 1845-1850)
Thaddeus Betts (B.A. 1807) – U.S. Senator (Whig-Connecticut, 1839-1840)
Jabez Williams Huntington (B.A. 1806) – U.S. Senator (Whig-Connecticut, 1840-1847)
Isaac Chapman Bates (B.A. 1802) – U.S. Senator (Whig-Massachusetts, 1841-1845)
John Davis (B.A. 1812) – U.S. Senator (W/NR-Massachusetts, 1835-1841, 1845-1853); Governor of Massachusetts (1834-1835, 1841-1843)
Samuel S. Phelps (B.A. 1811) – U.S. Senator (Whig-Vermont, 1839-1851, 1853-1854)
Asher Robbins (B.A. 1782) – U.S. Senator (Anti-Jacksonian/Whig-Rhode Island, 1825-1839); Member of the Rhode Island State Assembly (1818-1825, 1840-1841); Postmaster of Newport, Rhode Island (1841-1845)

Joseph Trumbull (B.A. 1801) – Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Whig-Connecticut, 1834-1835, 1839-1843)
William W. Boardman (B.A. 1812) – Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Whig-Connecticut, 1840-1843)
Truman Smith (B.A. 1815) – Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Whig-Connecticut, 1839-1843, 1845-1849)
Thomas Burr Osborne (B.A. 1817) – Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Whig-Connecticut, 1839-1843)
John Hall Brockway (B.A. 1820) – Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Whig-Connecticut, 1839-1843)
Christopher Morgan (B.A. 1828) – Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Whig-New York, 1839-1843)
Richard David Davis (B.A. 1818) – Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Democrat-New York, 1841-1845)
Osmyn Baker (B.A. 1822) – Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Whig-Massachusetts, 1840-1845)
William B. Calhoun (B.A. 1814) – Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Whig-Massachusetts, 1835-1843)
William Henry Washington (B.A. 1834, S&B 1834) – Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Whig-North Carolina, 1841-1843)
Isaac Edward Holmes (B.A. 1815) – Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Democrat-South Carolina, 1839-1851)
Graham Hurd Chapin (B.A. 1819) – Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Jacksonian-New York, 1835-1837)

State and Local Government Officials:

William Wolcott Ellsworth (B.A. 1810) – Governor of Connecticut (1838-1842)
Charles Hawley (B.A. 1813) – Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut (1838-1842)
Royal Ralph Hinman (B.A. 1804) – Secretary of State of Connecticut (1835-1842)
Ebenezer Learned (B.A. 1798) – Connecticut State Bank Commissioner (1839)
Charles Johnson McCurdy (B.A. 1817) – Speaker of the Connecticut State House of Representatives (1840-1841, 1844)
Thomas Kimberly Brace (B.A. 1801) – Mayor of Hartford, Connecticut (1840-1843); President of Aetna Insurance Company (1822-1860)
Samuel J. Hitchcock (B.A. 1809) – Mayor of New Haven, Connecticut (1839-1842)
Ralph I. Ingersoll (B.A. 1808) – Connecticut State's Attorney for New Haven County (1833-1845)
Eliphalet Swift (B.A. 1804) – Member of Connecticut State House of Representatives (1839-1841, 1844-1845)
Roger Sherman Baldwin (B.A. 1811) – Member of Connecticut State House of Representatives (1840-1841)
Abijah Catlin (B.A. 1825) – Member of Connecticut State House of Representatives (1837-1839, 1850-1851, 1861-1862, 1865, 1874, 1879)
Thomas Scott Williams (B.A. 1794) – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut (1834-1847)
Roger Minott Sherman (B.A. 1792) – Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut (1839-1842)
William L. Storrs (B.A. 1814) – Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut (1840-1856); Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Anti-Jacksonian-Connecticut, 1829-1833, 1839-1840)

Willis Hall (B.A. 1824) – Attorney General of New York (1839-1842)
Sumner Ely (B.A. 1804) – New York State Senator (1840-1843)
Frederick A. Tallmadge (B.A. 1811) – New York State Senator (1837-1840); Recorder of the City of New York (1841-1846)
William Abbott Moseley (B.A. 1816) – New York State Senator (1838-1841); Member of New York State Assembly (1835)
Henry Wyllys Taylor (B.A. 1816) – Member of New York State Assembly (1836-1839)
John Milton Holley (B.A. 1822) – Member of New York State Assembly (1838-1841)
Charles Ezra Clarke (B.A. 1809) – Member of New York State Assembly (1839-1840)
Samuel Jones Jr. (B.A. 1790) – Chief Judge of the Superior Court of New York City (1828-1847)
Thomas Jackson Oakley (B.A. 1801) – Judge of the Superior Court of New York City (1828-1847)
Caleb Smith Woodhull (B.A. 1812) – Member of the Common Council of New York City (1836-1844)
Justin Dwinell (B.A. 1808) – District Attorney of Madison County, New York [near Syracuse] (1837-1845)
George Ashmun (B.A. 1823) – Speaker (1841) and Member (1833, 1835-1836, 1838, 1841) of Massachusetts State House of Representatives
Julius Rockwell (B.A. 1826) – Massachusetts State Bank Commissioner (1838-40); Member of Massachusetts State House of Rep. (1834-38)
John Wallace Houston (B.A. 1834, S&B 1834) – Secretary of State of Delaware (1841-1844)
John Myers Felder (B.A. 1804) – South Carolina State Senator (1816-1820, 1840-1851)
James Hopkins Adams (B.A. 1831) – Member of the South Carolina State House of Representatives (1834-1837, 1840-1841, 1848-1849)
Rufus Paine Spalding (B.A. 1817) – Member of the Ohio State House of Representatives (1839-1842)
William Jessup (B.A. 1815) – Presiding Judge of the 11th Judicial District of Pennsylvania (1838-1851)
William Warner Hoppin (B.A. 1828) – Member of the Common Council of Providence, Rhode Island (1838-1842)

College Presidents and Professors:

Rev. Jeremiah Day (B.A. 1795) – President of Yale University (1817-1846)
Heman Humphrey (B.A. 1805) – President of Amherst College (1823-1845)

Simeon North (B.A. 1825, valedictorian) – President of Hamilton College (1839-1857); Professor of Greek at Hamilton College (1829-1839)
 William Maxwell (B.A. 1802) – President of Hampden-Sydney College (1838-1845); Member of Virginia State Senate (1832-1838)
 Hector Humphreys (B.A. 1818) – President of St. John's College [Annapolis, Maryland] (1831-1857)
 George Edmond Pierce (B.A. 1816) – President of Western Reserve University [Cleveland, Ohio] (1834-1855)
 Abraham B. Hasbrouck (B.A. 1810) – President of Rutgers College (1840-1850)
 Augustus Baldwin Longstreet (B.A. 1813) – President of Emory College [Atlanta, Georgia] (1840-1848)
 John H. Lathrop (B.A. 1819) – inaugural President of University of Missouri (1841-1849, 1865-1866)
 Eleazar Thompson Fitch (B.A. 1810) – Professor of Divinity at Yale University (1817-1852)
 David Daggett (B.A. 1783) – Professor of Law at Yale University (1826-1848)
 Josiah Willard Gibbs (B.A. 1809) – Professor of Sacred Literature at Yale University (1826-1861); Librarian of Yale University (1824-1843)
 Rev. Theodore Dwight Woolsey (B.A. 1820, valedictorian) – Professor of Greek Language and Literature at Yale University (1831-1851)
 James Luce Kingsley (B.A. 1799) – Professor of Latin Language and Literature at Yale University (1831-1851)
 William Augustus Larned (B.A. 1826) – Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature at Yale University (1839-1862)
 Chauncey Allen Goodrich (B.A. 1810) – Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature at Yale University (1817-1839); Professor of Pastoral Charge at Yale University (1839-1860)
 Benjamin Silliman (B.A. 1796) – Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology at Yale University (1802-1864)
 William Tully (B.A. 1806) – Professor of Medicine and Therapeutics at Yale University (1829-1842)
 Theodore Strong (B.A. 1812) – Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at Rutgers College [New Jersey] (1827-1862)
 Frederick A.P. Barnard (B.A. 1828) – Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at University of Alabama (1838-1849)
 Elisha Mitchell (B.A. 1813) – Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology at University of North Carolina (1825-1857)
 Samuel H. Dickinson (B.A. 1814) – Professor of Medicine at the Medical College of South Carolina [Charleston] (1833-1847, 1850-1858)
 Wyllys Warner (B.A. 1826) – Treasurer of Yale University (1833-1852)
 Elizur Goodrich (B.A. 1779) – Secretary of Yale University (1816-1846)
 Edward Dickinson (B.A. 1823) – Treasurer of Amherst College (1835-1873); father of poet Emily Dickinson
 Joseph Vaill Jr. (B.A. 1811) – Trustee of Amherst College (1821-1869)
 Samuel Hubbard (B.A. 1802) – Trustee of Dartmouth College (1828-1847); Judge of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts (1842-1847)
 Zedekiah Smith Barstow (B.A. 1813) – Trustee of Dartmouth College (1834-1871)
 Samuel Bulkley Ruggles (B.A. 1814) – Trustee of Columbia University (1836-1881); Founder of Bank of Commerce [New York City] in 1839
 Timothy Mather Cooley (B.A. 1792) – Trustee of Williams College (1812-1859); Vice President of Williams College (1846-1859)
 Samuel Shepard (B.A. 1793) – Vice President of Williams College (1834-1846)

Church Leaders:

William Heathcote DeLancey (B.A. 1817) – Protestant Episcopal Bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York (1839-1865)
 Christopher Edwards Gadsden (B.A. 1804) – Protestant Episcopal Bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina (1840-1853)
 Gardiner Spring (B.A. 1805) – Pastor of Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City (1810-1873)
 John Pierpont (B.A. 1804) – Minister of Hollis Street Church in Boston (1819-1845)
 George Washington Blagden (B.A. 1823) – Pastor of Old South Church in Boston (1836-1872); Pastor of Salem Street (Congregational) Church in Boston (1830-1836)
 John Todd (B.A. 1822) – Pastor of the First Congregational Church in Philadelphia (1836-1841)
 Thomas T. Waterman (B.A. 1822) – Pastor of the Fifth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia (1837-1843); Pastor of Richmond Street Congregational Church in Providence, Rhode Island (1826-1836); Pastor of Fourth Congregational Church in Providence, R.I. (1843-1852)
 Richard DeCharms (B.A. 1826) – Minister of the New Jerusalem Church in Philadelphia (1839-1844)
 Henry Augustus Boardman (B.A. 1829) – Pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia (1833-1876)
 Nathaniel Sheldon Wheaton (B.A. 1814) – Rector of Christ Church in New Orleans, Louisiana (1837-1844)
 John Chester Backus (B.A. 1830) – Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, Maryland (1836-1875)
 James Woods McLane (B.A. 1829) – Minister of the Madison Street Presbyterian Church in New York City (1836-1844)
 Lyman Beecher (B.A. 1797) – Minister of Second Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio (1832-1850); President of Lane Theological Seminary [Cincinnati] (1832-1850); father of Harriet Beecher Stowe (author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*)
 William Buell Sprague (B.A. 1815) – Minister of Second Presbyterian Church in Albany, New York (1829-1869)
 Abel McEwen (B.A. 1804) – Pastor of First Congregational Church in New London, Connecticut (1806-1854)
 Thomas Punderson (B.A. 1804) – Pastor of the Congregational Church in Huntington, Connecticut (1818-1844)
 Leonard Bacon (B.A. 1820) – Minister of First Congregational Church in New Haven, Connecticut (1825-1866)
 Hiram Phelps Arms (B.A. 1824) – Pastor of First (Congregational) Church of Norwich, Connecticut (1836-1873)
 Horace Bushnell (B.A. 1827) – Pastor of North Church in Hartford, Connecticut (1833-1859)
 Leverett Griggs (B.A. 1829) – Pastor of the Congregational Church in North Haven, Connecticut (1833-1845)
 William Bouton Weed (B.A. 1830) – Pastor of First Congregational Church in Stratford, Connecticut (1839-1855)
 Lyman Hotchkiss Atwater (B.A. 1831) – Pastor of First Congregational Church in Fairfield, Connecticut (1835-1854)
 Leonard Withington (B.A. 1814) – Pastor of First Congregational Church in Newbury, Massachusetts (1816-1858)
 Roger Conant Hatch (B.A. 1815) – Pastor of the Congregational Church in Warwick, Massachusetts (1836-1852)
 Milton Badger (B.A. 1823) – Pastor of the South Congregational Church in Andover, Massachusetts (1828-1845)
 Charles Rockwell (B.A. 1826) – Pastor of the Congregational Church in Chatham, Massachusetts (1839-1845)
 John Derby Smith (B.A. 1832) – Pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Charlemon, Massachusetts (1839-1844)
 William Ives Budington (B.A. 1834) – Pastor of First (Congregational) Church in Charlestown, Massachusetts (1840-1854)
 John Lord Taylor (B.A. 1835) – Pastor of the South Congregational Church in Andover, Massachusetts (1839-1852)
 William Theodore Dwight (B.A. 1813) – Pastor of Third Congregational Church in Portland, Maine (June 6, 1832-May 4, 1864)
 John Maltby (B.A. 1822) – Pastor of Hammond Street Church in Bangor, Maine (1834-1860)

Others:

James Gadsden (B.A. 1806) – President of Louisville, Cincinnati, & Charleston Railroad (1840-1850)
 Thomas Dunlap (B.A. 1812) – President of United States Bank of Pennsylvania [formerly Second Bank of the United States] (1839-1841)
 Elijah Hubbard (B.A. 1795) – President of Middletown Bank in Middletown, Connecticut (1824-1846)

John Cotton Smith (B.A. 1783) – President of the American Bible Society (1831-1845)
John Marsh Jr. (B.A. 1804) – Secretary of American Temperance Union (1836-1865)

Harvard University Graduates and Their Occupation during the First Opium War (1839-1842)

Businessmen:

Joseph Coolidge (B.A. 1817) – Partner of Russell & Company opium syndicate [drug dealers] in Canton, China (1834-1840)
Russell Sturgis (B.A. 1823) – Partner of Russell & Company opium syndicate [drug dealers] in Canton, China

Government Officials:

Leonard Jarvis (B.A. 1800) – U.S. Congressman (Jacksonian-Maine, 1829-1837); Naval Agent for the Port of Boston (1838-1841)
John Quincy Adams (B.A. 1787) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-Massachusetts, 1831-1848); Overseer of Harvard University (1830-1848)
William S. Hastings (B.A. 1817) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-Massachusetts, 1837-1842)
Caleb Cushing (B.A. 1817) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-Massachusetts, 1835-1843)
Leverett Saltonstall (B.A. 1802) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-Massachusetts, 1838-1843); Mayor of Salem, Massachusetts (1836-1838)
Levi Lincoln Jr. (B.A. 1802) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-Massachusetts, 1834-1841); Collector of the Port of Boston (1841-1843); Overseer of Harvard University (1825-1852)
Robert Charles Winthrop (B.A. 1828) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-Massachusetts, 1840-1842, 1842-1850)
Charles Gordon Atherton (B.A. 1822) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-New Hampshire, 1837-1843)
Samuel Hoar (B.A. 1802) – U.S. Congressman (Anti-Jacksonian-Massachusetts, 1835-1837)

Joseph Story (B.A. 1798) – Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (1811-1845)
John Davis (B.A. 1781) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for Massachusetts (1801-1841)
Elijah Paine (B.A. 1781) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for Vermont (1801-1842)
Ashur Ware (B.A. 1804) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for Maine (1822-1866)
Willard Hall (B.A. 1799) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for Delaware (1823-1871)
Franklin Dexter (B.A. 1812) – U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts (1841-1845)
Gorham Parks (B.A. 1813) – United States Marshal for the District of Maine (1838-1841)
George Bancroft (B.A. 1817) – Collector of the Port of Boston (1838-1841)

Edward Everett (B.A. 1811) – Governor of Massachusetts (1836-1840); U.S. Minister to Great Britain (1841-1845); Overseer of Harvard University (1827-1847, 1849-1854, 1862-1865)
James Trecothick Austin (B.A. 1802) – Attorney General of Massachusetts (1832-1843); Overseer of Harvard University (1826-1853)
Lemuel Shaw (B.A. 1800) – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts (1830-1860)
Samuel A. Eliot (B.A. 1817) – Mayor of Boston (1837-1839)
Jonathan Chapman (B.A. 1825) – Mayor of Boston (1840-1842)
Stephen C. Phillips (B.A. 1819) – Mayor of Salem, Massachusetts (1838-1842)
Willard Phillips (B.A. 1810) – Probate Judge for Suffolk County, Massachusetts [Boston] (1839-1847); Chairman of Commission to Codify Criminal Law of Massachusetts (1837-1842); Publisher of New England Galaxy [newspaper] (1828-1834)
Daniel Putnam King (B.A. 1823) – Massachusetts State Senator (1838-1841); President of the Massachusetts State Senate (1840)
George T. Davis (B.A. 1829) – Massachusetts State Senator (1839-1840)
Charles W. Upham (B.A. 1821) – Member of the Massachusetts State House of Representatives (1840-1849, 1859-1860)
Samuel H. Walley (B.A. 1826) – Member of the Massachusetts State House of Representatives (1836, 1840-1846)
Charles Paine (B.A. 1820) – Governor of Vermont (1841-1843)
Edward Kent (B.A. 1821) – Governor of Maine (1838-1839, 1841-1842)
Elisha Reynolds Potter (B.A. 1830) – Member of Rhode Island State House of Representatives (1838-1840)
Henry A. Bullard (B.A. 1807) – Justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana (1834-1846)

Educators and Journalists:

Josiah Quincy (B.A. 1790) – President of Harvard University (1829-1845)
Robert Woodward Barnwell (B.A. 1821) – President of University of South Carolina (1835-1841)
Stephen Chapin (B.A. 1804) – President of George Washington University [formerly Columbian College] (1828-1841)
George Rapall Noyes (B.A. 1818) – Hancock Professor of Hebrew at Harvard University (1840-1868)
Walter Channing (B.A. 1808; M.D. Harvard 1812) – Dean of Harvard Medical School (1819-1847)
John Collins Warren (B.A. 1797, valedictorian) – Professor of Anatomy and Surgery at Harvard Medical School (1815-1847); President of Massachusetts Temperance Society (1827-1856)
Robert Rantoul Jr. (B.A. 1826) – Member of the Massachusetts State Board of Education (1837-1842)
Thomas Sherwin (B.A. 1825) – Principal of English High School in Boston (1837-1869)
William Ware (B.A. 1816) – Editor and Publisher of *Christian Examiner* [newspaper in Boston] (1839-1844)
Samuel Treat (B.A. 1837) – Editor of *St. Louis Union* [newspaper in St. Louis, Missouri] (1841-1849)
George Barrell Emerson (B.A. 1817) – President of Boston Society of Natural History (1837-1843)

Church Leaders:

William Elery Channing (B.A. 1798) – Pastor of Federal Street Church in Boston (1803-1842)
Charles Lowell (B.A. 1800) – Pastor of West [Congregational] Church in Boston (1806-1861)
Francis Parkman (B.A. 1807) – Pastor of New North Church in Boston (1813-1849)
Nathaniel Langdon Frothingham (B.A. 1811) – Pastor of First [Congregational] Church of Boston (1815-1850)
Francis William Pitt Greenwood (B.A. 1814) – Minister of King's Chapel in Boston (1824-1843)
Alexander Young (B.A. 1820) – Pastor of New South Church in Boston (1825-1854); Overseer of Harvard University (1837-1853)
Ezra Stiles Gannett (B.A. 1820) – Pastor of Federal Street Church in Boston (1824-1871); Overseer of Harvard Univ. (1835-1852, 1853-1858)
Nehemiah Adams (B.A. 1826) – Pastor of Union Congregational [Essex Street] Church in Boston (1834-1878)
Chandler Robbins (B.A. 1829) – Pastor of Second [Congregational] Church of Boston (1833-1874)
Rev. Samuel Gilman (B.A. 1811) – Pastor of the Unitarian [Second Independent] Church in Charleston, South Carolina (1819-1858)
William Henry Furness (B.A. 1820) – Minister of the First Unitarian Church in Philadelphia (1825-1875)

George Edward Ellis (B.A. 1833) – Pastor of Harvard Unitarian Church in Charlestown, Massachusetts (1840-1869)

Princeton University Graduates and Their Occupation during the First Opium War (1839-1842)

John Forsyth (A.B. 1799) – U.S. Secretary of State (1834-1841)
Thomas Hartley Crawford (A.B. 1804) – Commissioner of Indian Affairs (1838-1845)
Smith Thompson (A.B. 1788) – Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (1823-1843)
James Moore Wayne (A.B. 1808) – Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (1835-1867)
Alfred Cuthbert (A.B. 1803) – U.S. Senator (Democrat-Georgia, 1835-1843)
Samuel L. Southard (A.B. 1804) – U.S. Senator (Whig-New Jersey, 1821-1823, 1833-1842); President of the U.S. Senate (1841-1842)
John Henderson (A.B. 1812) – U.S. Senator (Whig-Mississippi, 1839-1845)
John Sergeant (A.B. 1795) – U.S. Congressman (Federalist/Whig-Pennsylvania, 1815-1823, 1827-1829, 1837-1841)
Richard W. Habersham (A.B. 1805) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-Georgia, 1839-1842)
William Montgomery (A.B. 1808?) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-North Carolina, 1835-1841)
George Washington Toland (A.B. 1816) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-Pennsylvania, 1837-1843)
Thomas Robinson, Jr. (A.B. 1823?) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-Delaware, 1839-1841)
William Pennington (A.B. 1813) – Governor of New Jersey (1837-1843)
Patrick Noble (A.B. 1806) – Governor of South Carolina (1838-1840)
John Rutherford (A.B. 1810) – Governor of Virginia (1841-1842)
John M. Scott (A.B. 1805) – Mayor of Philadelphia (1841-1843)
Oliver Spencer Halsted (A.B. 1810) – Mayor of Newark, New Jersey (1840)
Richard Stockton Field (A.B. 1821) – Attorney General of New Jersey (1838-1841)
George P. Molleson (A.B. 1824) – Attorney General of New Jersey (1841-1844)
Richard Henry Bayard (A.B. 1814) – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware (1839-1841)
James Booth Jr. (A.B. 1808) – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware (1841-1855)
Thomas Ruffin (A.B. 1805) – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina (1833-1859)
Kensley Johns Jr. (A.B. 1810) – Chancellor of Delaware [head of equity court] (1832-1857)
James Carnahan (A.B. 1800) – President of Princeton University (1823-1854)
Theodore Frelinghuysen (A.B. 1804) – Chancellor of New York University (1839-1850)
Charles P. McIlvaine (A.B. 1816) – Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Ohio (1832-1873); President of Kenyon College (1832-1840)

Dartmouth College Graduates and Their Occupation during the First Opium War (1839-1842)

Federal Government Officials:

Daniel Webster (A.B. 1801) – U.S. Secretary of State (1841-1843, 1850-1852); U.S. Senator (Whig-Massachusetts, 1827-1841, 1845-1850)
Levi Woodbury (A.B. 1809) – Secretary of the Treasury (1834-1841); U.S. Senator (Democrat-New Hampshire, 1825-1831, 1841-1845)
Amos Kendall (A.B. 1811) – Postmaster-General of the United States (1835-1840)
Henry Hubbard (A.B. 1803) – U.S. Senator (Democrat-New Hampshire, 1835-1841)
Rufus Choate (A.B. 1819) – U.S. Senator (Whig-Massachusetts, 1841-1845)
George Grennell Jr. (A.B. 1808) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-Massachusetts, 1829-1839)
Richard Fletcher (A.B. 1806) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-Massachusetts, 1837-1839)
Isaac Fletcher (A.B. 1808) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-Vermont, 1837-1841)
Ira Allen Eastman (A.B. 1829) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-New Hampshire, 1839-1843)
David Bronson (A.B. 1819) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-Maine, 1841-1843)
Eleazar Wheelock Ripley (A.B. 1800) – U.S. Congressman (Jacksonian-Louisiana, 1835-1839)
Matthew Harvey (A.B. 1806) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for New Hampshire (1831-1866)

State and Local Government Officials:

Joel Parker (A.B. 1811) – Chief Justice (1838-1848) and Associate Justice (1833-1838) of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire
Nathaniel G. Upham (A.B. 1820) – Justice of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire (1833-1842)
Nathan Weston (A.B. 1803) – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maine (1834-1841)
Nicholas Emery (A.B. 1795) – Justice of the Supreme Court of Maine (1834-1841)
Ether Shepley (A.B. 1811) – Justice of the Supreme Court of Maine (1836-1848)
Samuel Sumner Wilde (A.B. 1789) – Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts (1815-1850); Member of the Hartford Convention (1814)
Isaac Fletcher Redfield (A.B. 1825) – Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Vermont (1835-1852)
Charles F. Gove (A.B. 1817) – Attorney General of New Hampshire (1837-1842)
Erastus Root (A.B. 1793) – Member of New York State Senate (1812-1815, 1840-1844)
George Abel Simmons (A.B. 1816) – Member of New York State Assembly (1840-1842)
Cyrus Porter Smith (A.B. 1824) – Mayor of Brooklyn, New York (1839-1842)
Elisha Huntington (A.B. 1815, M.D. Yale 1823) – Mayor of Lowell, Massachusetts (1839-1847)

Others:

John Wheeler (A.B. 1816) – President of University of Vermont (1833-1849)
Benjamin Labaree (A.B. 1828) – President of Middlebury College (1840-1866)
Joseph Estabrook (A.B. 1815) – President of University of Tennessee (1834-1850)
Daniel Blaisdell (A.B. 1827) – Treasurer of Dartmouth College (1835-1875)
Charles Marsh (A.B. 1786) – Trustee of Dartmouth College (1809-1849)
George Grennell Jr. (A.B. 1808) – Trustee of Amherst College (1839-1859)
George Bush (A.B. 1818) – Professor of Hebrew Language and Literature at New York University (1831-1847)
Samuel Harvey Taylor (A.B. 1832) – Principal of Philips Andover Academy [Massachusetts] (1837-1871)
Joseph Tracy (A.B. 1814) – Editor of *New York Observer* (1835-1874); Secretary of Massachusetts Colonization Society (1842)

Brown University Graduates and Their Occupation during the First Opium War (1839-1842)

William Henry King (A.B. 1838) – Member of Russell & Company opium syndicate in Canton, China
 Samuel Snow (A.B. 1782) – U.S. Consul in Canton, China (c. 1839)
 William Hunter (A.B. 1791) – U.S. Minister to Brazil (1835-1843)
 Henry Wheaton (A.B. 1802) – U.S. Minister to the Kingdom of Prussia (1835-1846)
 Virgil Maxcy (A.B. 1804) – U.S. Chargé d'Affaires to Belgium (1837-1842)
 Marcus Morton (A.B. 1804) – Governor of Massachusetts (1840-1841, 1843-1844); Justice of Supreme Court of Massachusetts (1825-1840)
 Samuel Willard Bridgham (A.B. 1794) – Mayor of Providence, Rhode Island (1832-1840)
 Job Durfee (A.B. 1813) – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island (1835-1847)
 William R. Staples (A.B. 1817) – Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island (1835-1854)
 Levi Haile (A.B. 1821) – Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island (1835-1854)
 John Pitman (A.B. 1799) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island (1825-1864)
 Henry Bowen (A.B. 1802) – Secretary of State of Rhode Island (1819-1849)
 John Brown Francis (A.B. 1808) – Rhode Island State Senator (1831, 1842, 1845-1856); Trustee of Brown University (1828-1857)
 Charles Jackson (A.B. 1817) – Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives (1841-1842)
 Richard Ward Greene (A.B. 1812) – U.S. Attorney for Rhode Island (1826-1845)
 John Holmes (A.B. 1796) – U.S. Attorney for Maine (1841-1843)
 John Ruggles (A.B. 1813) – U.S. Senator (Democrat-Maine, 1835-1841)
 Nathan F. Dixon Sr. (A.B. 1799) – U.S. Senator (Whig-Rhode Island, 1839-1842)
 John Reed (A.B. 1803) – U.S. Congressman (Federalist/Whig-Massachusetts, 1813-1817, 1821-1841)
 Horace Everett (A.B. 1797) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-Vermont, 1829-1843)
 Albert Smith (A.B. 1813) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-Maine, 1839-1841)
 Jared Warner Williams (A.B. 1818) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-New Hampshire, 1837-1841)
 Henry Williams (A.B. 1826) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-Massachusetts, 1839-1841, 1843-1845)
 James Tallmadge Jr. (A.B. 1798) – President of New York University (1830-1846)
 Jonathan Going (A.B. 1809) – President of Denison University [Ohio] (1837-1844); Trustee of Brown University (1825-1844)
 Moses Brown Ives (A.B. 1812) – Treasurer of Brown University (1825-1857); President of Providence Bank (1835-1857)
 Horace Mann (A.B. 1819) – Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Education (1837-1848)
 Nathan Bishop (A.B. 1837) – Superintendent of Public Schools of Providence, Rhode Island (1839-1852)
 Samuel Stillman Greene (A.B. 1837) – Superintendent of Public Schools of Springfield, Massachusetts (1840-1842)
 Henry Bowen Anthony (A.B. 1833) – Editor of *Providence Journal* [newspaper in Rhode Island] (1838-1859)

Columbia University Graduates and Their Occupation during the First Opium War (1839-1842)

Peter A. Cowdrey (B.A. 1821) – Corporation Counsel of New York City (1839-1844)
 James J. Roosevelt Jr. (B.A. 1815) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-New York, 1841-1843)
 Peter D. Vroom Jr. (B.A. 1808) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-New Jersey, 1839-1841)
 Josiah Ogden Hoffman (B.A. 1812) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-New York, 1837-1841)
 Gouverneur Kemble (B.A. 1803) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-New York, 1837-1841)
 Charles G. Ferris (B.A. 1811) – U.S. Congressman (Jacksonian/Democrat-New York, 1834-1835, 1841-1843)
 John McKeon (B.A. 1825) – U.S. Congressman (Jacksonian/Democrat-New York, 1835-1837, 1841-1843)
 Samuel Jones Jr. (B.A. 1793) – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New York (1828-1848)
 Gulian C. Verplanck (B.A. 1801) – Member of the New York State Senate (1838-1841)
 William Duer (B.A. 1824) – Member of the New York State Assembly (1840-1841)
 Henry U. Onderdonk (B.A. 1805) – Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Pennsylvania (1836-1844)
 Benjamin T. Onderdonk (B.A. 1809) – Protestant Episcopal Bishop of New York (1830-1861)
 Philip Milledoler (B.A. 1793) – Pres. of Rutgers College (1825-1840); Pastor, Collegiate Dutch Reformed Church in New York City (1813-1852)
 Henry Vethake (B.A. 1808) – Professor of Mathematics and Philosophy at University of Pennsylvania (1836-1855)

Williams College Graduates and Their Occupation during the First Opium War (1839-1842)

Mark Hopkins (B.A. 1824) – President of Williams College (1836-1872)
 Luther Bradish (B.A. 1804) – Lieutenant Governor of New York (1839-1842)
 Samuel Rossiter Betts (B.A. 1806) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York (1826-1867)
 Victory Birdseye (B.A. 1804) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-New York, 1815-1817, 1841-1843)
 Edward Rogers (B.A. 1809) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-New York, 1839-1841)
 Timothy Childs (B.A. 1811) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-New York, 1829-1831, 1835-1839, 1841-1843)
 John Chamberlain Clark (B.A. 1811) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-New York, 1827-1829, 1837-1839; Whig-New York, 1839-1843)
 Daniel Dewey Barnard (B.A. 1818) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-New York, 1827-1829, 1839-1845)
 Bernard Blair (B.A. 1825) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-New York, 1841-1843)
 Robert McClellan (B.A. 1825) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-New York, 1837-1839, 1841-1843)
 Jacob Merritt Howard (B.A. 1830) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-Michigan, 1841-1843)
 Elisha Hunt Allen (B.A. 1823) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-Maine, 1841-1843)

Yale University Graduates and Their Occupation during the Second Opium War (1856-1860)

Government Officials:

Peter Parker (B.A. 1831) – U.S. Commissioner to China (1856-1857)
Trusten Polk (B.A. 1831) – U.S. Senator (Democrat-Missouri, 1857-1862); Governor of Missouri (1857)
James Knox (B.A. 1830) – U.S. Congressman (Whig-Illinois, 1853-1857)
Eli Sims Shorter (B.A. 1843, S&K 1843) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-Alabama, 1855-1859)
William D. Bishop (B.A. 1849) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-Connecticut, 1857-1859)
Henry L. Dawes (B.A. 1839) – U.S. Congressman (Republican-Massachusetts, 1857-1875)
William Nathan Harrell Smith (B.A. 1834) – U.S. Congressman (Opposition Party-North Carolina, 1859-1861)
Orris Sanford Ferry (B.A. 1844, S&B 1844) – U.S. Congressman (Republican-Connecticut, 1859-1861)
Jacob K. McKenty (B.A. 1848) – U.S. Congressman (Democrat-Pennsylvania, 1860-1861)
John K. Kane (B.A. 1814) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (1846-1858)
Rensselaer Russell Nelson (B.A. 1846, S&B 1846) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota (1858-1896)
Henry Rootes Jackson (B.A. 1839, S&B 1839) – U.S. Minister to the Austrian Empire (1854-1858)

William T. Minor (B.A. 1834) – Governor of Connecticut (1855-1857)
William Warner Hoppin (B.A. 1828) – Governor of Rhode Island (1854-1857)
James Hopkins Adams (B.A. 1831) – Governor of South Carolina (1854-1856)
Henry Champion Deming (B.A. 1836, S&B 1836) – Mayor of Hartford, Connecticut (1854-1858, 1860-1862)
Elias W. Leavenworth (B.A. 1824) – Mayor of Syracuse, New York (1849-1850, 1859-1860)
John Ball Brisbrin (B.A. 1846, S&B 1846) – Mayor of St. Paul, Minnesota (1857)
William Pitt Lynde (B.A. 1838) – Mayor of Milwaukee, Wisconsin (1860)

Henry Matson White (B.A. 1809) – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut (1854-1857)
Thomas Slidell (B.A. 1825) – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana (1855-1856); brother of Confederate envoy John Slidell
William Wolcott Ellsworth (B.A. 1810) – Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut (1847-1861)
Levinus Monson (B.A. 1811) – Judge of the Supreme Court of New York (1850-1859)
William Strong (B.A. 1828) – Judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (1857-1868)
James N. Lea (B.A. 1834; S&B 1834) – Justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana (1855-1863)
John Wallace Houston (B.A. 1834, S&B 1834) – Justice of the Superior Court of Delaware (1855-1893)
Isaac Atwater (B.A. 1844) – Judge of the Supreme Court of Minnesota (1857-1864)

John Henry Felder (B.A. 1844, S&B 1844) – Member of South Carolina State Legislature (1852-1861)
Richard Taylor (B.A. 1845, S&B 1845) – Louisiana State Senator (1856-1861)
John Christopher Burch (B.A. 1847) – Member of Tennessee State Legislature (1855-1856); Tennessee State Senator (1857-1858)
Augustus Brandegee (B.A. 1849, S&B 1849) – Member of Connecticut State House of Representatives (1854-1857, 1859-1861)
Samuel Augustus Maverick (B.A. 1825) – Texas State Senator [San Antonio district] (1855-1859)
William Bennett Fleming (B.A. 1825) – Judge of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia [Savannah] (1847-1849, 1853-1868, 1879-81)
Charles Allen (B.A. 1815) – Chief Justice of the Suffolk County Superior Court [Boston, Massachusetts] (1859-1867)
Frederick A. Tallmadge (B.A. 1811) – Superintendent of the New York City Metropolitan Police [NYPD] (1857-1862)
Elizur Wright (B.A. 1826) – Massachusetts Commissioner of Insurance (1858-1866)
Frederick Ellsworth Mather (B.A. 1833, S&B 1833) – Member of the Common Council of New York City (1854-1857)

College Presidents:

Rev. Theodore Dwight Woolsey (B.A. 1820) – President of Yale University (1846-1871)
Simeon North (B.A. 1825, valedictorian) – President of Hamilton College (1839-1857)
Samuel Ware Fisher (B.A. 1835) – President of Hamilton College (1858-1866)
Augustus Baldwin Longstreet (B.A. 1813) – President of University of South Carolina (1857-1861)
William Wilson Hudson (B.A. 1827) – President of University of Missouri (1856-1859)
Frederick A.P. Barnard (B.A. 1828) – President of University of Mississippi (1856-1858)
Henry Barnard (B.A. 1830) – Chancellor of University of Wisconsin (1858-1860)
John H. Lathrop (B.A. 1819) – inaugural Chancellor of University of Wisconsin (1849-1858); President of Indiana University (1859-1860)
Joseph Gibson Hoyt (B.A. 1840, S&B 1840) – Chancellor of Washington University in St. Louis (1858-1862)
Henry Lawrence Hitchcock (B.A. 1832) – President of Western Reserve University [Cleveland, Ohio] (1855-1871)
Julian M. Sturtevant (B.A. 1826) – President of Illinois College [Jacksonville, Illinois] (1844-1876)
Aaron Lucius Chapin (B.A. 1837) – inaugural President of Beloit College [Wisconsin] (1849-1886)

Church Leaders:

William Heathcote DeLancey (B.A. 1817) – Protestant Episcopal Bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York (1839-1865)
Francis Huger Rutledge (B.A. 1820) – Protestant Episcopal Bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Florida (1851-1866)
Thomas March Clark (B.A. 1831) – Protestant Episcopal Bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island (1854-1903)
William Ingraham Kip (B.A. 1831) – Protestant Episcopal Bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of California (1857-1890)
Gardiner Spring (B.A. 1805) – Pastor of Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City (1810-1873)
Joseph Parrish Thompson (B.A. 1838, S&B 1838) – Pastor of Broadway Tabernacle in New York City (1845-1871)
George Washington Blagden (B.A. 1823) – Pastor of Old South Church in Boston (1836-1872)
Henry Martyn Dexter (B.A. 1840) – Pastor of Pine Street Congregational Church in Boston (1849-1867)
Henry Augustus Boardman (B.A. 1829) – Pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia (1833-1876)
John Chester Backus (B.A. 1830) – Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, Maryland (1836-1875)
Samuel Wolcott (B.A. 1833) – Pastor of High Street Congregational Church in Providence, Rhode Island (1853-1859); Pastor of New England Church in Chicago (1859-1862)

William Theodore Dwight (B.A. 1813) – Pastor of Third Congregational Church in Portland, Maine (June 6, 1832-May 4, 1864)
Hiram Phelps Arms (B.A. 1824) – Pastor of First (Congregational) Church of Norwich, Connecticut (1836-1873)
Ray Palmer (B.A. 1830) – Pastor of First Congregational Church in Albany, New York (1850-1866)
William Ives Budington (B.A. 1834) – Pastor of Clinton Avenue Congregational Church in Brooklyn, New York (1855-1878)
Charles Henry Hall (B.A. 1842) – Rector of the Church of the Epiphany in Washington, D.C. (1856-1869)
Edward D. Morris (B.A. 1849, S&B 1849) – Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Columbus, Ohio (1855-1867)

Businessmen and Miscellaneous:

Charles F. Pond (B.A. 1830) – President of the New Haven, Hartford and Springfield Railroad Company (1842-1867)
Lewis Baldwin Parsons (B.A. 1840) – President, Treasurer, and Attorney of Ohio and Mississippi Railroad (1854-1874)
Edward Dickinson (B.A. 1823) – Treasurer of Amherst College (1835-1873); father of poet Emily Dickinson
Ralph Randolph Gurley (B.A. 1818) – Agent, Secretary, Vice President, and Director of American Colonization Society [Liberia] (1822-1872)
James Darrach (B.A. 1827) – Superintendent of the New York Hospital in New York City [on Broadway opposite Pearl Street] (1854-1864)
Francis Gillette (B.A. 1829) – Chairman of Connecticut State Board of Education (1849-1865)
Pelatiah Perit (B.A. 1802) – President of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York (1853-1863)
John Marsh Jr. (B.A. 1804) – Secretary of American Temperance Union (1836-1865)
Frederick Adolphus Porcher (B.A. 1828) – President of South Carolina Historical Society (1856-1888)
Samuel Rogers Andrew (B.A. 1807) – Secretary of Yale University (1846-1858)
Benjamin Silliman (B.A. 1796) – Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology at Yale University (1802-1864)
Benjamin Silliman Jr. (B.A. 1837, S&B 1837) – Professor of Chemistry at Yale University (1846-1885)
Thomas Anthony Thacher (B.A. 1835, S&B 1835) – Professor of Latin at Yale University (1842-1886)
Hubert Anson Newton (B.A. 1850) – Professor of Mathematics at Yale University (1855-1890)

Harvard University Graduates and Their Occupation during the Second Opium War (1856-1860)

Government Officials:

Caleb Cushing (B.A. 1817) – U.S. Attorney General (1853-1857)
Charles Eames (B.A. 1831) – U.S. Minister to Venezuela (1854-1858)
Charles Sumner (B.A. 1830, LL.B. 1834) – U.S. Senator (Republican-Massachusetts, 1851-1874)
Amos Nourse (B.A. 1812) – U.S. Senator (Republican-Maine, 1857)
Edward Joy Morris (B.A. 1836) – U.S. Congressman (Whig/Republican, Pennsylvania, 1843-1845, 1857-1861)
Charles Francis Adams Sr. (B.A. 1825) – U.S. Congressman (Republican-Massachusetts, 1859-1861)
Benjamin R. Curtis (B.A. 1829, LL.B. 1832) – Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (1851-1857)
Willard Hall (B.A. 1799) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for Delaware (1823-1871)
Ashur Ware (B.A. 1804) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for Maine (1822-1866)
Peleg Sprague (B.A. 1812) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for Massachusetts (1841-1865)
James Dandridge Halyburton (B.A. 1823) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (1844-1861)
Samuel Treat (B.A. 1837) – Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri (1857-1887)

Joseph H. Williams (B.A. 1834, LL.B. 1837) – Governor of Maine (1857-1858)
Stephen Henry Phillips (B.A. 1842) – Attorney General of Massachusetts (1858-1861)
William Willis (B.A. 1813) – Mayor of Portland, Maine (1857)
Charles W. Upham (B.A. 1821) – Massachusetts State Senator (1857-1858)
Charles Hale (B.A. 1850) – Speaker of the Massachusetts State House of Representatives (1859)
Samuel Dana Bell (B.A. 1816) – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire (1859-1864)
Lemuel Shaw (B.A. 1800) – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts (1830-1860)
Pliny Merrick (B.A. 1814) – Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts (1853-1864)
Edward Kent (B.A. 1821) – Justice of the Maine Supreme Court (1859-1873)

Church Leaders:

Stephen Elliott (B.A. 1824) – Protestant Episcopal Bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia (1841-1866)
Alfred Lee (B.A. 1827) – Protestant Episcopal Bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware (1841-1887)
Charles Lowell (B.A. 1800) – Pastor of West [Congregational] Church in Boston (1806-1861)
Ezra Stiles Gannett (B.A. 1820) – Pastor of Federal Street Church in Boston (1824-1871); Overseer of Harvard Univ. (1835-1852, 1853-1858)
Nehemiah Adams (B.A. 1826) – Pastor of Union Congregational [Essex Street] Church in Boston (1834-1878)
Chandler Robbins (B.A. 1829) – Pastor of Second [Congregational] Church of Boston (1833-1874)
Stephen Higginson Tyng (B.A. 1817) – Pastor of St. George's Church in New York City (1845-1878)
William Henry Furness (B.A. 1820) – Minister of the First Unitarian Church in Philadelphia (1825-1875)
Richard Fuller (B.A. 1824) – Pastor of 7th Baptist Church in Baltimore (1847-1871); former President of Southern Baptist Convention
George Edward Ellis (B.A. 1833) – Pastor of Harvard Unitarian Church in Charlestown, Massachusetts (1840-1869); Overseer of Harvard University (1850-1879)

College Presidents, Professors, and Businessmen:

James Walker (A.B. 1814) – President of Harvard University (1853-1860)
William Augustus Stearns (B.A. 1827) – President of Amherst College (1854-1876)
Alva Woods (B.A. 1817) – Trustee of Brown University (1843-1859)
Nathaniel Bradstreet Shurtleff (B.A. 1831, M.D. 1834) – Overseer of Harvard University (1852-1861, 1863-1869)
Theophilus Parsons (B.A. 1815) – Dane Professor of Law at Harvard Law School (1848-1869)
George Rapall Noyes (B.A. 1818) – Hancock Professor of Hebrew at Harvard University (1840-1868)
Willard Phillips (B.A. 1810) – President of New England Mutual Life Insurance Co. (1847-1870)

Sydney Howard Gay (B.A. 1833) – Editor of American Anti-Slavery Standard in New York City (1843-1857); Agent for the underground railway (1843-1857)



View of the American Garden, 1844-1845 China Gouache, pen, paper Gift of Mr. Louis Pappas, 1961
Peabody Essex Museum 2007 Mark Sexton Photo (Painting: [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#))

“Following the close of the War of 1812 further organization and differentiation of the trade took place. The firm of Samuel Russell and Company, of which the partners were [Samuel] Russell and [Philip] Ammidon, Edward Carrington, Cyrus Butler, and B. and T.C. Hoppin of Providence, was formed in December, 1818, the two first named being designated to represent the firm in Canton for five years. At the end of this period the firm was reorganized under the name of Russell and Company, with the approval and help of the house of Perkins, which retired from Canton three years later. The Russell house was further consolidated by the incorporation of some smaller firms and came to occupy a financial position in China comparable with that of the famous British firms.”

– *Americans in Eastern Asia: A Critical Study of the Policy of the United States with reference to China, Japan and Korea in the 19th Century* by Tyler Dennett, p. 71-72 (published in 1922)

“The establishment of a system of exchange, by which bills on London were substituted for specie, came before 1830 as a result of the increased commercial relationship between the United States and England, and the growth of the opium trade. A part of the American trade with China was financed from London even before 1800. Shortly after 1815 American merchants began to buy British manufactured goods, chiefly cottons, in the English market, and to take them to China where they were able to sell them cheaper than the East India Company... The effect of this trade in British manufactured goods was to make London a clearing house for a considerable amount of European and China trade which had formerly been settled either in Canton or Europe by payments of specie. Meanwhile the opium trade from India to China increased to the point where China was consuming more foreign produce than the value of the tea, silks, etc., which the foreigner was taking out of China. China settled the balance against her in silver. The Empire had become, by means of opium, a buying more than a selling nation. More and more the Americans came to Canton not with specie but with bills on London which they disposed of in return for their outward cargoes. In other words, by taking out Chinese produce, and settling the account in London, they helped the Chinese to adjust the balance of trade.”



No. 42. Victoria West and P. & O. Hong. c. 1851. Water-colour.

G. Chinnery.

View of the west part of the city of Victoria, Hong Kong, showing the premises of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company with their flag over the godown. The flags behind the P.&O. are French and American. The hong l., of the picture is probably the Oriental Bank (opened 1845) and has long disappeared as well as the office of the P.&O. The 'Hongkong Almanack' for 1846 records the Company as having the office in Queen's Road. (Painting: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~chaterfamilytree/chinnery.htm>)

American Diplomats in China



Caleb Cushing (left, B.A. Harvard 1817) was a U.S. Congressman (Whig-Massachusetts, 1835-1843) during the First Opium War and a U.S. Commissioner to China from May 8, 1843 to August 27, 1844. Alexander Hill Everett (right, B.A. Harvard 1806), the brother of former Massachusetts Governor William Everett, served as a U.S. Commissioner to China from March 13, 1845 to June 28, 1847.

Jardine, Matheson & Company



A photo of Jardine Matheson merchants William Jardine (left) and James Matheson is on display at the Opium War Museum in China. The caption above the photo states: "William Jardine and James Matheson, Chief Opium Dealers from Britain". Both William Jardine and James Matheson served as Member of Parliament in London.

(Photo: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/43039959@N00/87667070/>)



View of Padder Street from the Praya in Hong Kong (香港) in 1895. Premises of Jardine Matheson & Co. on the right and of Melchers & Co. on the left. Jardine Matheson & Co. was founded by Scottish merchants William Jardine and James Matheson. (Photo: [Flickr](#))



Jardine-Matheson headquarters in Shanghai in the early 1920s, before the 2 extra floors were added. Great Britain established diplomatic relations with Communist China on January 5, 1950 in an attempt to protect its crown colony of Hong Kong and its "investment" in Shanghai.



The Jardine Matheson Building (above) is located in the Bund in Shanghai, Communist China. Perhaps the greatest 'hong' of them all, Jardine Matheson was founded by two Scottish tea exporters, William Jardine and James Matheson, who shifted their original tea trade to the more profitable trade of opium importation into China from India. Having established a foothold in China at Canton, it became the impetus for the British acquisition of Hong Kong, where British and foreign merchantmen could trade freely unfettered by inconsistent Chinese governance based upon a well-founded suspicion of foreigners. Jardines (known as 'Ewo' in Chinese) grew to become the dominant trading company in Shanghai, Hong Kong and the Treaty Ports; by the Inter-War years, Jardines were involved in shipping, warehousing, engineering, mining, silk, cotton, insurance and perhaps most importantly, the EWO brewery. The Shanghai headquarters were built to reflect its premier position. The top two floors were later added. (Architect: AW Graham-Brown of Stewardson & Spence)

Jardine Matheson Building

Formerly: Shanghai Foreign Trade Commission, formerly housed the then-powerful Jardine Matheson company.

Architect:

Location: No. 27, The Bund, Shanghai, China

Date:

Style: Beaux-Arts

Construction: steel frame, stone cladding

Type: Office Building

A Short History of Jardine, Matheson & Company

Early history

In 1802, Dr. William Jardine was practising medicine on British East India Company vessels sailing between Calcutta and Canton. Under a charter granted in the seventeenth century by Charles I of England, the directors in London's Leadenhall Street held a monopoly on British trade between India and China. It was customary, however, for the Company's servants to conduct a certain amount of private business of their own. In order to regularise this, the East India Company allowed each officer and member of the crew a space about equal to two chests; what the men did with this space was their own business. Using this space, the doctor soon discovered that trading illegal narcotics was far more lucrative than doctoring. It was during these early days that William Jardine found himself onboard a ship captured by the French with all cargo seized. However, what was to become a highly lucrative partnership was formed with a fellow passenger, a Parsee Indian called Jamshet Jejeebhoy. They became good friends, becoming prominent in their respective business fields and forming a trading relationship that was to endure for many years to come.

In Canton, Dr. Jardine met a naturalised Briton of Huguenot extraction named Hollingworth Magniac and learned that there were ways by which, to a small extent, the monopoly of the East India Company could be circumvented. In 1817, Jardine left his first employers and began the struggle towards establishing his own private firm.

In the meantime, James Matheson was in his uncle's business in Calcutta. His uncle one day entrusted him with a letter to be delivered to the captain of a British vessel which was on the point of departure. James forgot to deliver the letter, and the vessel sailed. His uncle was incensed at this negligence, and it was suggested that young James had better go home. He took his uncle at his word and went to engage a passage to England. "Why not try Canton instead?" an old skipper advised him.

James Matheson did try Canton. And it was there, in 1818, that he met Jardine. The two men formed a partnership which included also Hollingworth Magniac and Beale, an English inventor of clocks and automata. At first they dealt only with Bombay and Calcutta, the so-called "country trade," but later they extended their business to London.

The activities of these four men made an important contribution towards bringing to an end, in 1834, the monopoly of the East India Company in China.

Establishment of the private firm of Jardine, Matheson & Co.

For a long time the British East India Company had been growing increasingly unpopular in Britain. Men such as Sheridan, Elliot, Charles James Fox, William Windham, and Edmund Burke were its bitter enemies. Many British people believed that freedom of the seas and freedom of trade were synonymous. They had fought for years to establish this freedom, only to see it threatened by a King's charter to a group of London merchants. Further, certain high-handed methods used by the East India Company in dealing with competitors aroused the moral indignation of the British at home.

Nevertheless, open competition with the East India Company was risky business. The Company was empowered to punish transgressors vigorously—even to the extent of hanging. Occasionally, free traders did manage to secure a license from the Company to engage in the "country trade," usually with India, but never with Britain. In rare instances, other free traders, called "interlopers," competed with the Company. The interlopers usually were friends of the Government in England from which they had been able to obtain some form of charter of their own. Sooner or later, however, the East India Company always managed to have these other charters revoked.

There was one method, however, by which a Briton could establish a business on the East India Company's preserves. He could accept the consulship of a foreign country and register under its laws. This method was employed by Jardine to establish himself in Canton. Magniac had obtained an appointment from the King of Prussia, and later James Matheson represented Denmark and Hawaii. On this basis the partners had nothing to fear from the Company; in fact, relations between these two and the East India Company seemed in time to have become amicable. It is recorded that when ships of the East India Company were detained outside the harbour by the authorities, Jardine offered his services "without fee or reward." These services saved the East India Company a considerable sum of money and earned for Jardine the Company's gratitude.

By 1830, the enemies of the East India Company had begun to triumph, and its hold on trade with the East had weakened noticeably. Furthermore, at this time, both Magniac and Beale were getting ready to retire. In 1832, two years before the East India Company finally was dissolved, William Jardine and James Matheson entered into formal partnership as a private firm, Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Establishment of the firm in Hong Kong

In 1834, the first free ship, Jardines' Sarah, left Whampoa with a cargo of tea for London. This was the signal that showed the East India Company was no longer a power in the East, and was immediately followed by a rush to participate in the fast developing China trade, which was centered on tea. From the middle of the seventeenth century this drink had been growing in popularity in Britain and the British colonies, but the trade in teas was far from simple. Due to the rapacious British tax collector, the tax on tea was often as much as two hundred percent of the value.[citation needed] This exorbitant taxation gave rise to widespread smuggling which became an additional hazard to legitimate business. To profit in the China trade one had to be ahead of all competition, both legitimate and otherwise. Each year, fast ships from Britain, Europe, and America lay ready at the Chinese ports to load the first of the new season's teas. The ships raced home with their precious cargoes, each attempting to be the first to reach the consumer markets, thereby obtaining the premium prices offered for the early deliveries.

Jardines became so well established they commanded an enviable portion of the China trade. Raw and manufactured goods were imported from India and the United Kingdom. Teas and silks were exported.

In 1842, the firm built the first substantial house and established their head office on the recently acquired island of Hong Kong. This began an era of increased prosperity and expansion. New offices soon were opened in the trading centres of Shanghai, Fuzhou, and Tianjin. Since then Jardines have never ceased to expand.

William Keswick, the young nephew of Dr. Jardine, was sent to Japan in 1858 to open up trading for the firm. He established an office in Yokohama. In Japan, Jardines also expanded rapidly and additional offices were opened -- in Kobe, Nagasaki, and other ports. From the beginning, a large and profitable business was conducted in imports, exports, shipping, and insurance.

By the end of the nineteenth century, business in the Far East no longer was confined to simple trading. Industrial expansion had begun. In its wake, the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company had been formed. To aid further in this development, Jardines had created insurance companies. They built cotton mills. Great wharves and warehouses were set up. Cold storage and press packing plants for China's widening export trade were erected. A more recent example of enterprise was the building of Ewo Brewery in 1935. The directors of Jardines have built a great modern business structure on the foundation so solidly laid by the pioneers of the firm.

War and reconstruction

In 1932, after the first Japanese attack on China, the firm closed its offices in Manchuria; when the Japanese went in, Jardines walked out. When the war came in 1941, the Japanese took over all Jardines' interests in Hong Kong and occupied China--but not before offices of the firm had been established in Chongqing and Kunming. (Offices in Bombay, India were also established around this time.) Contact with the war-time world of Chinese official and commercial life thus was maintained. The house flag was kept flying.

Immediately on cessation of hostilities, the staff from these offices and from internment camps in China were first in the field recovering the firm's properties from the Japanese forces.

In the summer of 1947, as soon as the authorities permitted, Jardines re-entered Japan. From that date, the task of re-establishing their former wide interests in that country has been under way.

In Taiwan Jardines have maintained offices since early in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Today the Taipei office not only is the leading tea exporter to Europe, Asia, and America, but also is engaged in shipping and in general export and import business.

Scottish leadership

Jardines is controlled by the Keswick (pronounced "Kezzick") family who are direct descendants of William Jardine's sister.

While the leadership of Jardines is Scottish, the firm is international in its dealings. The staff of Jardines (239,000 employees as of January 2007) is predominantly Asian, with the senior levels being a mixture of British, Chinese, Indonesian, European, Australian and American.

The Keswicks have maintained a relationship with another prominent Scottish family, the Flemings. From 1970 until 1998, Jardine Matheson operated a pan-Asian investment banking joint venture, Jardine Fleming, with Robert Fleming & Co., a London merchant bank controlled by the Fleming family. In 2000, Jardine Fleming and Robert Fleming & Co. were sold to JP Morgan Chase.

The shipping interests

From the earliest days of the firm, shipping can justly claim to have been the most prominent among the many and varied enterprises of Jardines.

It was the practice of Jardines to possess the fastest and best-handled ships that money could buy. The firm did this in order that its leading position could not be assailed. In the early days, it was often possible to make a fortune with the exclusive possession of market or budget news for a period even so brief as a few hours. Conversely, a fortune could be lost if the despatches from home were late. The keen competition for faster and more efficient shipping helped immeasurably in the rapid development of trade with the Far East. It was due largely, to the excellence of the fleet that Jardines outlived all rivals. In the days of the sailing ships, many of the most famous clippers were those of the Company's fleet. Among these were illustrious names such as "Red Rover", "Falcon", and "Sylph". The last-named clipper made a sailing record that was never beaten. It sailed from Calcutta to Lintin in the Pearl River estuary in seventeen days, seventeen hours.

The first merchant steamer in China, the Jardine, was built to order for the firm in 1835. She was a small vessel intended for use as a mail and passenger carrier between Lintin Island, Macao, and Whampoa. However, after several trips, the Chinese authorities, for reasons best known to themselves, prohibited her entrance into the river. She perforce had to be sent to Singapore.

The first steam ships owned by Jardines ran chiefly between Calcutta and the Chinese ports. They were fast enough so that they could make the 1,400-mile trip in two days less than the P. & O. vessels.

As time passed, more and more ships were procured for Jardines' fleet. The ports of call extended as conditions allowed. The firm was among the first to send ships to Japan, and at an early date established a regular service between Yokohama, Kobe, and China's ports.

Until 1881, the India and China coastal and river services were operated by several companies. In that year, however, these were merged into the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., a public company under the management of Jardines. The activities of this company extended from India to Japan, including the Straits Settlements, Borneo, and, of course, the China coast. In the latter sphere, the "Indo-China" developed rapidly. The company pushed inland up the Yangtsze River on which a specially designed fleet was built to meet all requirements of the river trade. For many years, this fleet gave unequalled service.

Jardines established an enviable reputation for the efficient handling of shipping. As a result, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company invited the firm to attend to the Agency of their Shire Line which operated in the Far East. This occurred shortly before the first World War and necessitated a further expansion of the firm's shipping organisation. Today, no less than fifteen internationally known British, Canadian, and United States shipping companies entrust their agencies to this organisation.

In China, the bulk of freight emanates from domestic sources. On account of this an efficient and well-connected Chinese staff is maintained at all Jardines' branches. These branches are continuously in touch with the special features and tendencies of the Chinese markets.

With the disappearance of Japanese competition as a result of the war, and with the resurrection of China's merchant navy, shipping conditions in the Far East have changed vastly. The business demands an extreme degree of flexibility in the operation of foreign shipping. Jardines possess a rich fund of experience which was gained in the pioneering years of the last century and which extends through two world wars to the uncertainties of the present day. Jardines' shipping organisation offers unequalled service to shipowners, not only in the great ports of Hong Kong and Shanghai, but at every major coast port in China and also in Japan. In addition, since World War II, the firm has been operating the Australia-China Line, an enterprise owned jointly with Commons Bros., Ltd., of Newcastle. This line runs from Australia to Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Jardines are leaders also in Sino-foreign shipping co-operation.

Interests in wharves and warehouses

Hong Kong

On the initiative of Jardines and the late Sir Paul Chater, the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Company was formed in 1886. Since that date, the chairmanship of the board has been held by the managing director of Jardines.

At the property known as Kowloon Point, ten ocean-going vessels of up to thirty-two feet draught can be berthed regardless of the state of the tide. At the West Point property on Hongkong Island itself, one coastal vessel can be accommodated.

Kowloon Point provides storage space for about 750,000 tons of cargo. The transit sheds have been designed specially to provide maximum light and sorting space. The godowns are six-storeyed, of reinforced concrete, and are fully equipped with cargo lifts and cranes. A treasury, or strong room, capable of storing up to 500 measurement tons of bullion or other valuable cargo, is a part of the facilities offered.

The company also operates a launch and lighter fleet for the discharge of vessels at buoys and for general transshipment work.

Shanghai

Following an amalgamation of several local wharves in 1875, Jardine, Matheson & Co. were appointed general managers of the Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co., Ltd. In 1883, the Old Ningpo Wharf was added, and in 1890 the Pootung Wharf was purchased to complete the Company's already extensive properties. For three quarters of a century, therefore, Jardines have served the great port of Shanghai.

The Company owns some 3,000 feet of the most valuable wharf frontage on the Shanghai side of the river. On the opposite, or Pudong (Pootung), side their frontage extends to 2,550. The wharves are capable of accommodating ten large ocean-going vessels at a time.

Before the Pacific War, the Company possessed godown, or warehouse, space of 2,505,000 square feet. Unfortunately there was considerable destruction by the Japanese. Rehabilitation progressed rapidly, however, and the standard of efficient working for which the company is well known has been re-established.

Source: <http://www.chinese-architecture.info/BUND/SH-BU-018.htm>

Second Opium War (1856-1860)



Pa-Li-Kiao's bridge, on the evening of the battle. The Battle of Palikiao (Baliqiao) occurred on September 21, 1860 during the Second Opium War (1856-1860). The Anglo-French victory opened a path to Beijing for Western armies.



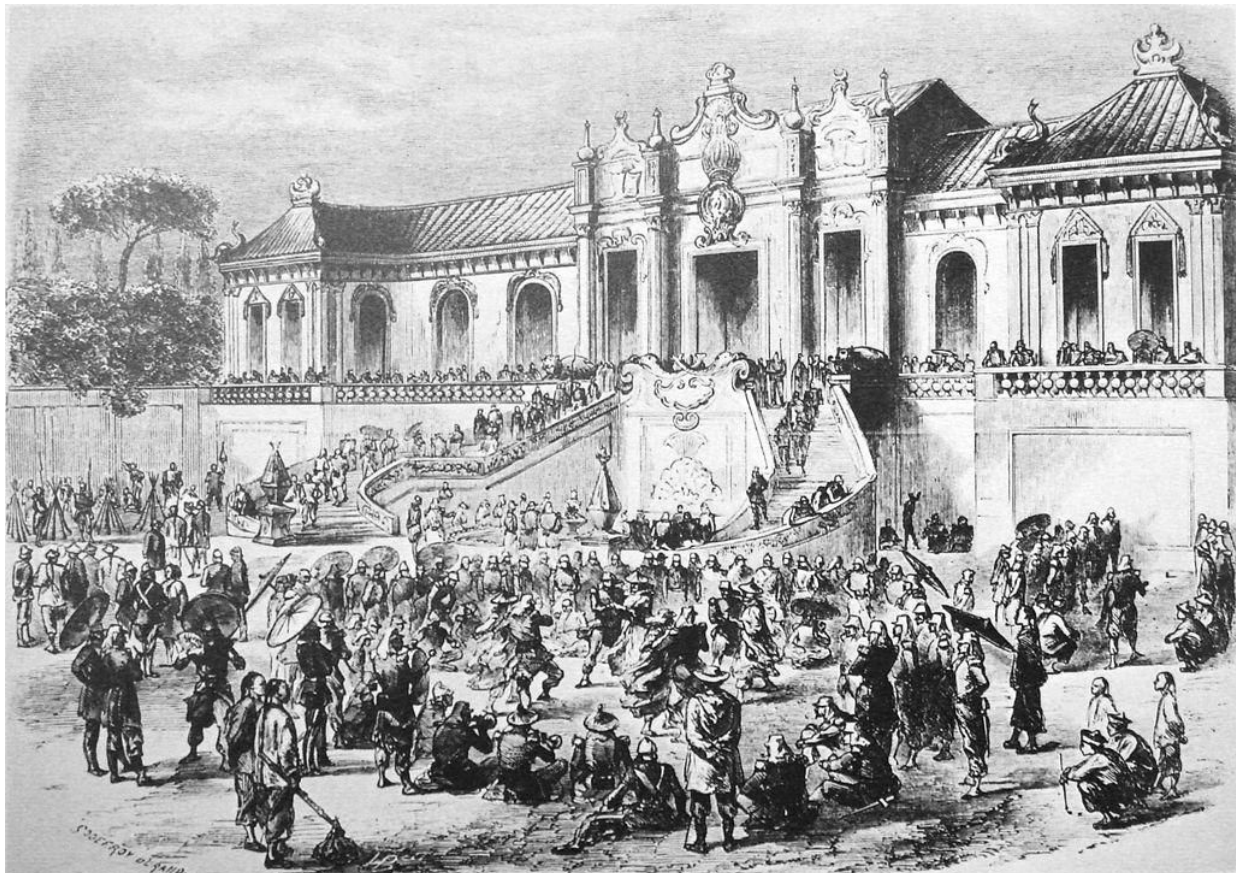
Chinese officers hauling down the British flag and arresting the crew of the British ship *Arrow* on October 8, 1856.



Combat at Guangzhou (Canton) during the Second Opium War



Signing of the Treaty of Tientsin in June 1858





Prince Gong, photographed on November 2, 1860, after he signed the Peking “peace” treaty on October 24, 1860

第六款
一前據本年二月二十八日
大清兩廣總督勞崇光將粵東九龍司地方一區交
與大英駐紮粵省暫充^英總局正使功賜三等
寶星吧哩哩代國立批永租在案茲
大清大皇帝定即將該地界付與大英君主並歷
後嗣並歸英屬香港內以期該港準面管轄
所及庶保無事其批作為廢紙外其有該地華
民自稱業戶應由彼此兩國各派委員會勘查
明果為該戶本業嗣後倘遇勢必令遷別地大
英國無不公當賠補
第七款
一戊午年所定原約除現定續約或有更張外

The Convention of Peking, an unequal treaty signed by China in 1860, forced China to surrender the Kowloon area of Hong Kong to Great Britain and the eastern territories of China near the Amur River (including Vladivostok) to Russia.



Map of East Asia (1855-1874) displaying Russia's acquisition of eastern Manchuria and Sakhalin Islands

Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864)



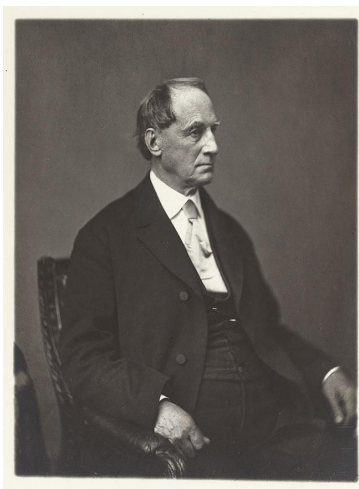
Territories controlled by the Taiping army during the Taiping Rebellion



Taiping soldiers, male and female, outside Shanghai during the Taiping Rebellion. The Taiping Rebellion began in 1850 and lasted until 1864. Hung Hsiu-ch'uan (1813-1864), the leader of the Taiping Rebellion, converted to Christianity, established a Chinese kingdom in the city of Nanking and inspired the Chinese people in the Yangtze River valley to revolt against Manchurian rule.



Qing painting of the defeat of the Taiping Northern expedition at Lianzhen, close to the Grand Canal



Left photo: **Caleb Cushing**: U.S. Minister to China (May 8, 1843- August 27, 1844) and U.S. Attorney General (1853-1857)

Center photo: **Edwin Hurd Conger**: U.S. Minister to China (January 19, 1898–April 4, 1905) and U.S. Congressman (R-Iowa, 1885-1890)

Right photo: **William Woodville Rockhill** (1854-1914): U.S. Minister to China (March 8, 1905-June 1, 1909), U.S. Ambassador to Russia (January 11, 1910-June 17, 1911), U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire (August 28, 1911-November 20, 1913), U.S. Minister to Greece (1897-1899), U.S. Minister to Romania (1897-1899), and U.S. Minister to Serbia (1897-1899)



Anson Burlingame (1820-1870, LL.B. Harvard 1846)
United States Minister to China (June 14, 1861-November 21, 1867) and
Chinese Ambassador and Special Envoy (December 1, 1867- February 23, 1870)

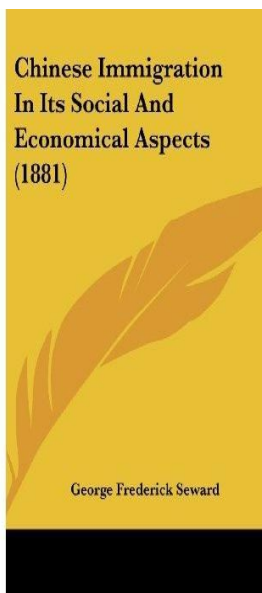
BURLINGAME, Anson, (1820 - 1870)

BURLINGAME, Anson, a Representative from Massachusetts; born in New Berlin, N.Y., November 14, 1820; moved with his parents to Seneca County, Ohio, in 1823, and to Detroit, Mich., in 1833; attended private schools and the Detroit branch of the University of Michigan; was graduated from the law department of Harvard University in 1846; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Boston; served in the State senate in 1852; member of the Massachusetts constitutional convention in 1853; elected as a candidate of the American Party to the Thirty-fourth Congress and as a Republican to the Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth Congresses (March 4, 1855-March 3, 1861); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1860 to the Thirty-seventh Congress; appointed Minister to Austria March 22, 1861, but was not accepted by the Austrian Government because of certain opinions he was known to entertain regarding Hungary and Sardinia; Minister to China from June 14, 1861, to November 21, 1867; appointed December 1, 1867, by the Chinese Government its ambassador to negotiate treaties with foreign powers; died in St. Petersburg, Russia, February 23, 1870; interment in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Mass.

Bibliography

Anderson, David L. "Anson Burlingame: Reformer and Diplomat." *Civil War History* 25 (December 1979): 293-308; Koo, Telly H. "The Life of Anson Burlingame." Ph.D. diss., Harvard University, 1922.

Source: <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=B001112>



George Frederick Seward served as U.S. Consul General in Shanghai (1864-1867) and U.S. Minister to China (1876-1880).

Soong Family, Green Gang, & The Rise of Shanghai



Nanking Road in Shanghai in the 1930s

“This role of comprador lies at the heart of hatreds that fired the revolutionary upheavals of the twentieth century. It was a complex role – somewhere between pimp and patrician – that linked the separate economic classes in the Orient and provided the lubrication between East and West. Shanghai was a city of compradors. No British gentleman, and therefore no foreigner of any nationality hoping to pass as a gentleman, would have dreamed of engaging in direct business dealings with Chinese. Such a thing would have been debasing. It would also have been hard work, requiring a mastery of the Chinese language, Chinese social customs, and Chinese business practice, the latter a mystery unto itself. The British had engaged compradors in their opium trade, often Persians or Iraqi Jews, who became fabulously rich in the process and emerged as some of the great families of Shanghai, including the Sassoons, the Hardoons, and the Kadoories. It was said that they “came down from Baghdad to Shanghai on camels and left in Rolls-Royces.” Like them, many Chinese compradors also grew rich. Nothing could move without them. Skillful politicians, they made profits from both sides. Successful compradors were senior members of triads. The head of the Red Gang was the chief of detectives for the colonial government in the French Concession: a comprador of crime.” – *The Soong Dynasty* by Sterling Seagrave, p. 66

“Pockmarked” Huang Jinrong was the senior Chinese officer in the French gendarmerie in the 1920s and 1930s. Through his relationship with Du Yue-sheng [Tu Yueh-sheng], he organised crime in the French Concession, making sure that the brothels and opium dens were profitable and well-ordered. The French, much more pragmatic in these matters than the superficially moralistic British in the International Settlement, saw little problem in having a police chief keeping criminal activity under control with everybody, including the French expatriates, benefiting handsomely. It is said that Du had an intimate relationship with Huang's wife, and that she helped convince Huang to go into partnership with Du. Huang is also said to have owned the Great World pleasure centre on the border of the French and International concessions.

(Source: <http://www.earnshaw.com/shanghai-ed-india/tales/t-peop10.htm>)



Downtown Shanghai during the 1920s



Hotel employee greets guest arriving by car outside the deluxe Cathay Hotel in Shanghai, China on August 14, 1937, a few days before bombs dropped by accident from Chinese planes caused a lot of damage and death. (Time Life photo)



Cathay Hotel in Shanghai after a National Revolutionary Army [army of the Republic of China] bombing run during the Battle of Shanghai in 1937



A truck carrying prisoners to their execution appears in the middle of the European Concession in Shanghai, China in 1926.



Imperial Japanese army troops enter Shanghai in November 1937.



The leaders of the Green Gang in 1920s ("Big Ears" Tu Yueh-sheng on right). "Big Ears" Tu Yueh-sheng and his Green Gang controlled the drug and prostitution trade in Shanghai from the early 1920s until 1949 when the Chinese Communists occupied Shanghai and outlawed drugs and prostitution.



Chinese gangsters and drug dealers "Big Ears" Tu Yueh-sheng (杜月笙, left) and 'Pockmarked' Huang Chin-rung [Huang Jinrong] (right). "Big Ears" Tu was the Godfather of Shanghai who controlled various banks and businesses in Shanghai during the 1920s and 1930s. "Big Ears"

Tu was Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's mentor and "godfather"; "Big Ears" Tu fled to Hong Kong in 1949 after the Chinese Communists overran Shanghai.

“Chiang Kai-shek always seemed to squeak by financially despite Kung’s horrific economic blunders and strangulation of the Chinese economy. This was because Chiang, although personally uninterested in economics, had a source of giant revenues that guaranteed him great amounts of secure foreign currency. The source of Chiang’s comfort was narcotics. Keeping in mind that Green Gang domination of the Chinese underworld originated in its virtual monopoly of opium traffic, that Shanghai itself had been founded on a great brown swamp of opium tar, and that the only exportable resource for some provinces like Yunnan was opium, it can come as no surprise that Nanking was quietly paying many of its bill with narcotics revenues. The opium trade, which had been inflicted on China by the British, had fallen into the hands of the Chinese underworld after the turn of the century, when Britain withdrew from the trade in a moralistic turnabout. During the warlord era that followed, opium was also the main source of revenue for the military rulers who controlled China province by province; taxes on its cultivation and transportation, opium dens and paraphernalia provided the sums to meet both military and civilian needs of these pocket dictatorships. Sun Yat-sen had taxed Canton opium dens to raise revenues for his hard-pressed treasury, and Chiang Kai-shek saw opium in much the same practical light – only on a grander scale. If Chiang’s regime could control China’s entire illicit opium trade, it would provide a vast source of sustaining revenue for his armies. There was nothing original in the idea. This was precisely the same reasoning that Big-eared Tu gave to Pockmarked Huang two decades earlier, leading to the amalgamation of all the Yangtze Valley triads into an opium cartel dominated by the Green Gang. Chiang simply wanted to “elevate” this principle to national policy.” – *The Soong Dynasty* by Sterling Seagrave, p. 330-331

“One of the richest opium-producing areas was in North China, and when Japan overran these territories in the early 1930s, Chiang took a heavy loss financially. The problem was twofold: he lost revenues from his share in the opium trade in that area, and the Japanese were running a very profitable international heroin trade using the raw opium from the conquered Chinese territory. Chiang solved the problem by making it illegal for Chinese to use the refined drugs morphine and heroin, and then concluded a trade treaty with Japan to purchase opium from them. As illogical as they may sound, Chiang preferred to pay the Japanese a basic price for raw opium from North China rather than to forfeit all the revenues he could make from it. Otherwise Japan would smuggle it into KMT-controlled China anyway. By the early 1930s, opium was taking a back seat to its more powerful products, morphine and heroin. The evolution was gradual. Morphine had been widely used by Western missionaries in the late 1800s to cure Chinese opium addicts; so in China the drug became known as “Jesus opium.” Then heroin, first derived from opium in 1874 by chemists at Bayer pharmaceuticals in Germany, and launched by Bayer as a patent medicine in 1898, showed promise as a treatment for morphine addicts. Chinese first became opium addicts, then graduated to morphine, then to heroin. By 1924, China was importing enough heroin from Japan each year to provide four strong doses of the drug to every one of the nation’s 400 million inhabitants. In that same year, however, the U.S. Congress, which had only recently banned alcohol, banned heroin as a patent medicine. Immediately, American mobsters who were doing a thriving trade in bootlegging, plunged into the heroin trade. While European criminal syndicates drew their supplies of opium from the poppy fields of Persia and the so-called Golden Crescent, American mobs found it easier and cheaper to buy from China. In 1931, the League of Nations established international quotas for the production of heroin designed to reduce the supply to strictly medicinal needs.” – *The Soong Dynasty* by Sterling Seagrave, p. 334



A photo of Charlie Soong when he was a student at Vanderbilt University (left) and as a father (right). Charles Jones Soong's real name was Han Chiao-shun. Charlie Soong lived in Shanghai where he was a preacher at a Methodist church in the International Concession. Charlie Soong was a member of the Red Gang, a triad organization that opposed the Manchu Dynasty and supported the restoration of the old Ming Dynasty.



Silas Aaron Hardoon (1851-1931) was a Jewish businessman in Shanghai. Silas Aaron Hardoon was a partner in E. D. Sassoon's and Company in Shanghai. Hardoon was born and raised in Baghdad, Iraq and moved to Shanghai in 1868.



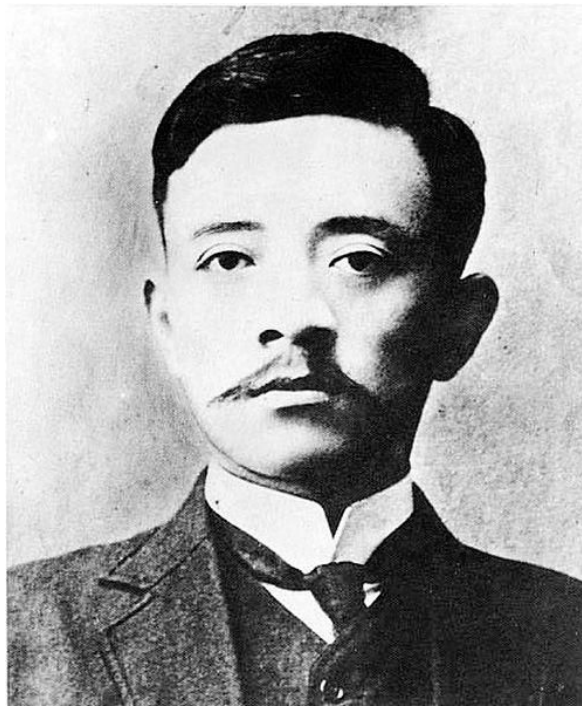
Portrait of the Soong Family, the "First Family" of Shanghai, taken in Shanghai in July 1917. Front: T.A. Soong, Second row from left: Soong Ai-ling, T.V. Soong, Soong Ching-ling. Third row from left: T.L. Soong, Chaires Jones "Charlie" Soong, Madame Charles Jones Soong (Ni Kwei-tseng), Soong May-ling. (Photo: [Vanderbilt University Library](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/library))

Soong Mei-ling spent most of her childhood living in Macon, Georgia and attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts. Soong Ai-ling and Soong Ching-ling graduated from Wesleyan College in Georgia. Charlie Soong lived in North Carolina with an industrialist named Julian Carr

and attended Trinity College (present-day Duke University) for one year. The Soong family along with Sun Yat-sen lived in Tokyo, Japan from 1913 to 1916 when Yuan Shih-kai was the dictator of China. Charlie Soong died on May 3, 1918.



A Nationalist Chinese banknote from 1930 (produced by American Banknote Company)



Lone Gunman or Patsy?: Sung Chiao-jen (宋教仁, 1882-1913)(above), the President of the Kuomintang (Chinese Nationalist Party) in 1912 and 1913, was assassinated by a “lone gunman” at the train station in Shanghai on March 20, 1913. Sung died two days later in Shanghai on March 22, 1913. Chinese warlord Yuan Shih-kai was allegedly the mastermind behind the assassination of Sung Chiao-jen. The “Second Revolution”, a political rebellion against Yuan Shih-kai, began in July 1913.



Mitsuru Toyama (頭山 滿, left), chief of the Black Dragon Society (黒龍会, Kokuryukai), appears with future Prime Minister of Japan Tsuyoshi Inukai (犬養 毅, center), future President of Republic of China Chiang Kai-shek (蔣中正 / 蔣介石, second from right), and other dignitaries in 1929. Prime Minister of Japan Tsuyoshi Inukai was assassinated on May 15, 1932.
(Photo: <http://www.toyamamitsuru.jp/syashin/index.html>)



Nazi Germany's dictator Adolf Hitler stand on a patio with Kung Hsiang-hsi [H.H. Kung] (孔祥熙), Nationalist China's Minister of Finance (1933-1944) and Governor of the Central Bank of China (1933-1945), during Kung's visit to Berchtesgaden, Germany in 1937. H.H. Kung earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Oberlin College in 1906 and a Master of Arts degree at Yale University in 1907. H.H. Kung was married to Soong Ai-ling, the sister of Madame Chiang Kai-shek (Soong Mei-ling). Nazi German officers trained Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's army during the 1930s; Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's adopted son Chiang Wei-kuo served in the Wehrmacht and participated in the Anschluss. (Time Life photo)



Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's execution squad, primarily led by members of the Green Gang, beheads communist workers in Shanghai on April 12, 1927.



American soldiers of the U.S. Cavalry patrol the streets of Shanghai, China on horseback in 1925.



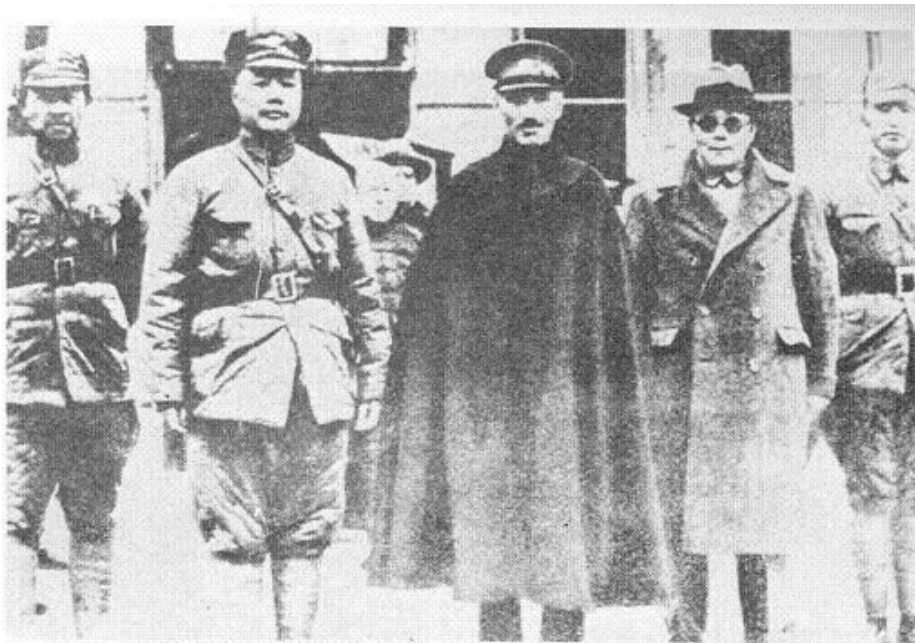
Soviet military adviser Mikhail Markovich Borodin and Zhang Tayley appear together in front of a podium in Shanghai on June 23, 1925, during a protest against the events of May 30.

“On April 6, the Supervisory Committee of the KMT – a mostly honorary body that did not have executive authority and included Chiang’s key backer Chang Jieru, as well as Dai Jitao and the Chen brothers – unanimously agreed to remove Communists from the party and established a coordinating group to do so: the “Shanghai Purge Committee.” The “most important objective,” Chen Lifu tells us in his memoirs, was to assure that the Green Gang did not ally with the CCP, which the KMT considered a real possibility. The two principal leaders of the Green Gang, Du Yuesheng [“Big Ears” Tu] and Huang Jinrong [“Pockmarked Huang”], “for political reasons” had “stayed close to the Communist Party” as well as the Kuomintang. According to Chen Lifu, Du had direct contact with Wang Shouhua, a Green Gang and CCP member who was leader of the Communist-led Shanghai Federation of Trade Unions. Because of these ties, the CCP Central Committee did not believe the powerful Green Gang was an imminent threat. But a ranking gang member named Yang Hu, who had worked with Chiang Kai-shek in the early years of the revolution, served as the KMT purge committee’s principal contact with Du Yuesheng, who was given 600,000 Chinese yuan by the committee to create a “Mutual Progress Society” of armed thugs to help carry out the gang’s assigned actions. Indeed, before leaving, Chiang appointed Yang commander of Shanghai’s garrisons. That same day, Manchurian marshal Zhang Zuolin’s police stormed into the large Soviet embassy in Peking, arresting Russian diplomats and CCP members, and carrying off truckloads of documents that provided “persuasive evidence of the degree to which Moscow, though its agent, Borodin, controlled the CCP.” Marshal Zhang ordered the strangulation of Li Dazhao and nineteen other CCP members taken at the embassy. But ruthlessness and treachery were inherent on both sides. By coincidence, also on April 6, Stalin, ignorant of events in Peking, told a meeting of three thousand party workers in Moscow that “When the [KMT] Right is of no more use, Chiang Kai-shek will be squeezed out like a lemon and flung far away.” The twenty-two-year-long Chinese civil war began in Shanghai in the early morning hours of April 12, 1927. The previous evening, the Green Gang’s Du Yuesheng invited his friend Wang Shouhua, the Communist labor leader, to his home for a chat. While there, Du advised Wang to quit the Communist party and join the KMT. Wang declined and as he left the house, two assassins gunned him down. Then, after midnight, Bai Chongxi’s Seventh Corps units in Shanghai took over the offices of the pro-Communist Labor Federation and shot resisting workers, while armed bands organized by the Green Gang as the Mutual Prosperity Society attacked workers’ inspection corps in several localities, killing several dozen resisters. Many more, including Zhou Enlai, were arrested and sent to Bai’s headquarters. Zhou was the ranking CCP official in the city, but Bai released him, very likely with Chiang’s approval or on his orders. Green Gang members rooted out other Communists in hiding, reportedly killing hundreds while thousands fled. When troops of the Seventh Corps fired on a demonstration, scores more lost their lives. Similar purges took place in Canton, Guilin, Ningbo, Amoy, and elsewhere.”

– *The Generalissimo: Chiang Kai-shek and The Struggle for Modern China* by Jay Taylor (2009), p. 66-67

“Chiang’s realm included the commercial and banking cities of Shanghai, Ningbo, and Nanking. His support from the financial leaders of these cities would not suffer from the factional rivalry and jealousy that afflicted his military base. In fact, the capitalists were given no role in the KMT and the party remained anticapitalist. Throughout his career, Chiang Kai-shek would tightly control the various organizations of bankers and merchants in these cities, milking them of funds when necessary with the unacknowledged help of Du Yuesheng’s gang through such means as threats, destruction of property, and even kidnapping. For the next ten years Chiang would also obtain large funds from taxes on the growth and consumption of opium, part of a control system officially intended to gradually reduce use of the drug – and a system in which Du Yuesheng [“Big Ears” Tu] would play an official part.”

– *The Generalissimo: Chiang Kai-shek and The Struggle for Modern China* by Jay Taylor (2009), p. 69-70



巡定保赴時役戰城長年二十二國民於公蔣 統總先
影合後宜機示請公蔣 向元哲宋長軍軍九十二，視

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and friends during the early 1920s



Downtown Shanghai in 1930



A Shanghai street is filled with rickshaws on May 1, 1949. At this time, many businesses had already begun closing their doors and moving. (Getty/Popperfoto/Paul Popper)

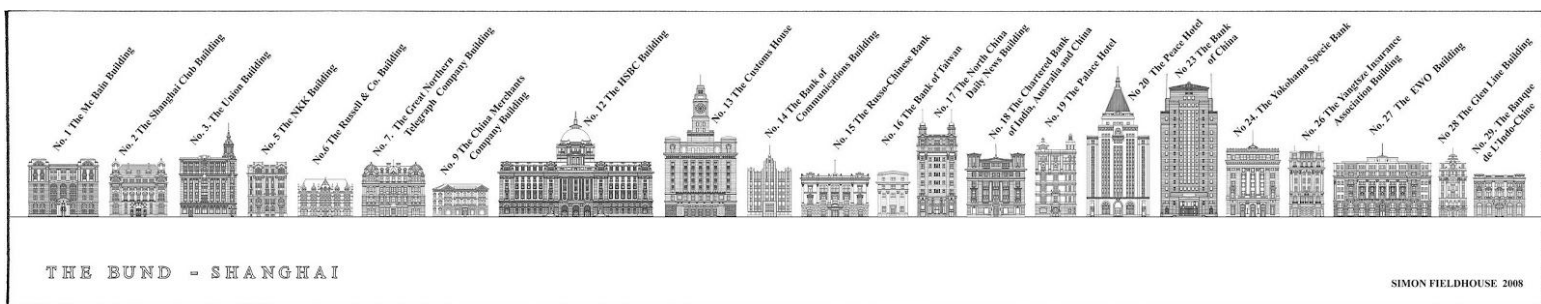




The Bund in Shanghai, the former European Concessions. The European corporate merchants established “concessions” in Shanghai, following the First Opium War.



The Bund in Shanghai, the former European Concessions. The European corporate merchants established “concessions” in Shanghai, following the First Opium War. (Photo: [Flickr](#))



“The trade in such drugs results in monopoly which not only centralizes the drug traffic, but also restructures the social and economic terrain in the process. Two major effects are the creation of mass markets and the generation of enormous ...unprecedented, cash flows. [Which] results in the concentrated accumulation of vast pools of wealth. [Which] have been among the primary foundations of global capitalism and the modern nation-state itself. Indeed, it may be argued that the entire rise of the West, from 1500 to 1900, depended on a series of drug trades. Drug trades destabilized existing societies not merely because they destroyed individual human beings but also, and perhaps most importantly [they] undercut the existing political economy of any state. They have created new forms of capital; and they have redistributed wealth in radically new ways. **It is possible to suggest that mass consumption, as it exists in modern society, began with drug addiction.** And, beyond that, addiction began with a drug-as-commodity. Something was necessary to prime the pump, as it were, to initiate the cycles of production, consumption and accumulation that we identify with capitalism. Opium was the catalyst of the consumer market, the money economy. Opium created pools of capital and fed in the institutions that accumulated it: the banking and financial systems, the insurance systems and the transportation and information infrastructures.”



The HSBC Main Building in 1901 in Hong Kong, the headquarters of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) from 1886 to 1933 for its Hong Kong operation. HSBC was founded in the cities of Hong Kong and Shanghai in 1865.



Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) headquarters (center) in downtown Shanghai



Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) logo

Legacy of the Opium War: Drug Trafficking & Drug Addiction



A group of Hmong women harvest poppy seeds in the Golden Triangle area near Thailand. (National Geographic photo)

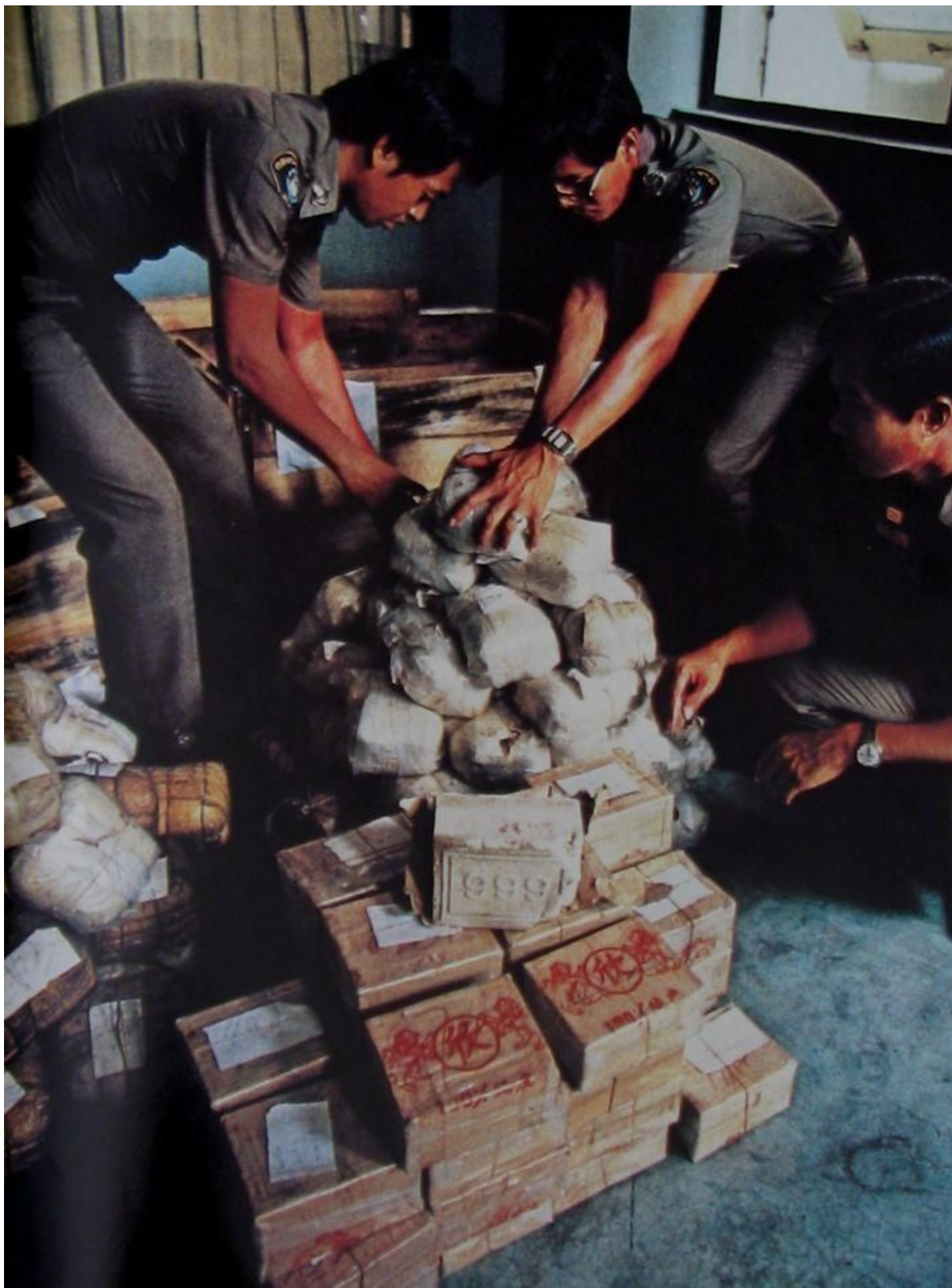


Former British Crown Colony of Hong Kong

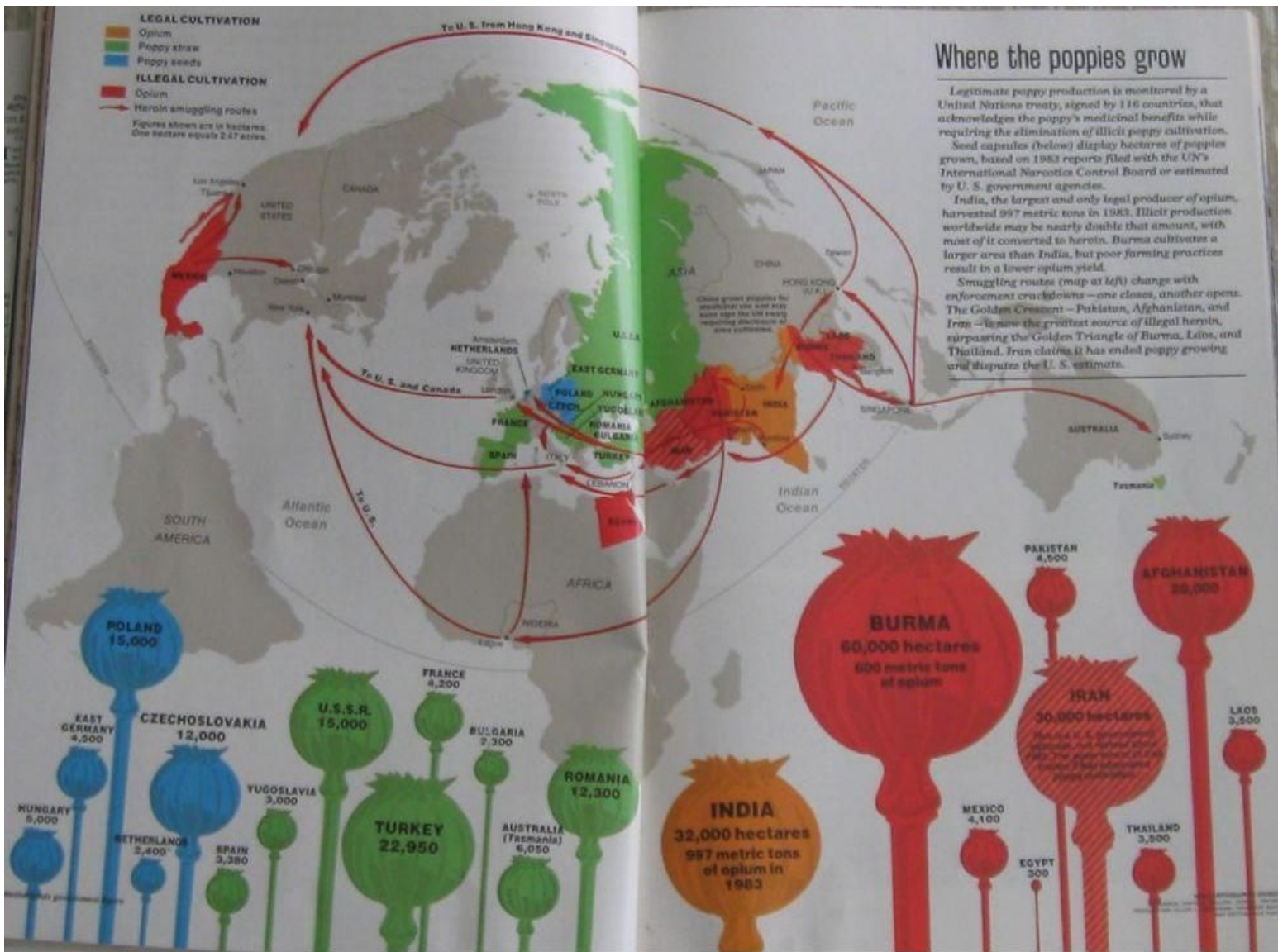




Kowloon District in Hong Kong



Thailand National Police officers examine a load of contraband opium. (National Geographic photo)



(Source: National Geographic, February 1985 issue)



Left photo: A man in Thailand smokes opium. (Source: National Geographic, February 1985 issue)

Right photo: An unidentified Chinese woman suffers from physical effects of opium addiction.



Rural landscape in the Shan State in eastern Burma



The sign at the entrance to the city of Tachilek called the Golden Triangle city on March 31, 2009 in Tachilek, Burma [Myanmar]. Tachilek, Burma sits on the Thai-Burmese border in Shan State and is known to be the crossing point for the majority of amphetamine pills into Thailand. The drugs are reportedly manufactured and distributed by various armed ceasefire groups in Shan State. The Thai- Burma border town is a busy trading town for gems full of cheap goods, plus many varieties of copies from China. Many Burmese work in Thailand to make a better wage but live across the border, Burmese also get badly needed medical care in the Thai border town of Mae Sai.

(Photo Paula Bronstein/Getty Images)



Heroin warlord Khun Sa (also known as Chang Chi-fu) (right) with Australian journalist Stephen Rice, pictured in April 1988 at Khun Sa's jungle headquarters inside Burma, in South East Asia's Golden Triangle.

(Photo: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khun_Sa)



American U.S. Army soldiers raid a poppy field in Afghanistan during the “Global War on Terrorism”.



Left photo: The War on Drugs in Colombia and the Medellin Cartel
 Right photo: Company logo of Jardine-Matheson

“...[I]n the Golden Triangle – the Burma-Thailand-Laos area of Southeast Asia...U.S. government estimates say about 20 percent of the heroin consumed in the U.S. comes from poppies growing here, near hundreds of villages scattered at 3,000 feet or higher, by the mountain people, as they’re called in Thailand – the Yao, Hmong, and Akha; the Lahu and Lisu. They produce rice to eat and opium for medicine and for cash, to put into silver bars or ornaments, maybe a good rifle or a radio, or more pigs or a buffalo. Extensive poppy growing began here in the 19th century...Taking the opium to laboratories – to be turned into morphine base or heroin – makes for a lot of coming and going by caravans of pack mules...This is a hallmark of Golden Triangle traffic: the involvement of sizable forces of armed outlaws. They’re from minorities in revolt against the Burma government, such as SUA, the Shan United Army. And the KMT, or Kuomintang soldiers – remnants of anti-Communist armies that left China after Mao’s victory, now settled in northern Thailand.”

– National Geographic magazine, February 1985, *The Poppy: For Good and Evil*, p. 170

Drug Trafficking in Colonial Vietnam



Chinese opium den in Vietnam. The smokers are in clean surroundings and healthy-looking, possibly because at least one is smoking a tobacco pipe, not an opium pipe, *L'Illustration*, 1918. From Philip Choy collection.
 (Source: <http://www.cinarc.org/Opium-2.html>)



A Vietnamese man prepares to smoke opium. (Photo: <http://www.opiummuseum.com/index.pl?pics&66>)



A handsome Vietnamese prostitute poses in a high-class opium den, presumably in Saigon. The French colonial administration organized the opium traffic in order to raise revenues, and the operation was highly successful.



Paul Doumer, the French governor-general of Indochina around the turn of the century, put the possession on a paying basis by exploiting its resources. Later president of France, he was assassinated in Paris in 1932.

Paul Doumer served as the Governor-General of French Indochina from 1897-1902 and President of France from June 13, 1931 to May 7, 1932. Paul Doumer was assassinated by a "lone gunman" named Paul Gorguloff, a Russian émigré, in Paris, France on May 6, 1932; Paul Doumer died of his wounds the next day. (Source: *Vietnam: A History* by Stanley Karnow)

“The laboring classes, mostly Chinese and Vietnamese Chinese, upon whom the predominantly agriculturally based economy relied, spent much of their earnings on opium. Families starved to death, disease was widespread and the drug undermined workers’ abilities. The French-trained native civil service elite were most of them addicts and corrupt. When anti-colonial, nationalist sentiments began to be voiced, the opium monopoly was cited as the worst aspect of French domination and one of the linch-pins of Ho Chi Minh’s anti-colonial propaganda. It was the French who enticed the Hmong hill tribes of northern Laos to change their cash crop to opium during the Second World War, obtaining their co-operation by promising political support. Production rose by 800 per cent from 7.5 tons in 1940 to 60.6 tons in 1944 and the Hmong tribes, arguing over opium rights and revenues, split into factions which caused a quarter of a century of civil war. In neighbouring Tonkin, the French politically sided with Tai feudal leaders who purchased Hmong opium but double-crossed them when it came time to pay, causing the Hmong to take sides with the Viet Minh against the French. The Viet Minh and, therefore, ultimately the Viet Cong, had their struggle partly aided by the opium trade they detested. The French stopped the opium monopoly in 1946 but, upon losing the revenue from it, unofficially sanctioned French intelligence organizations to take over the trafficking of opiates to fund covert operations in the First Indo-China War of 1946-54. With typical Gallic guile, corrupt French intelligence officers in collaboration with Corsican gangsters operated the Indo-Chinese based international drugs trade. The money they earned was vital. The war was underfunded from Paris, where public opinion was against it, so French military and intelligence officers took a new tack. In Operation X, they dealt in opium to pay and arm local groups in order to keep the Viet Minh at bay. The French, therefore, increased the illicit traffic in opium, taking a cut of the profits to pay what were, in effect, mercenaries: individual French officials and military personnel also creamed off percentages for themselves and became rich on the proceeds. This practice did not stop until the French quit Indo-China. The raw opium in which they dealt was purchased from the Hmong then flown by French military transport to Saigon where it was prepared and distributed to dens and dealers by the Binh Xuyen. This was a Vietnamese criminal syndicate which controlled organized crime in the south of the country and to whose nefarious activities the French turned a blind eye in exchange for their co-operation and occasional help against the Viet Minh. The Binh Xuyen leader, Le Van ‘Bay’ Vien, became the richest man in Saigon by 1954 for he not only ran the domestic opium market but he sold any surplus on to Chinese and Corsican syndicates. With French colonial power receding and Vietnam partitioned, the Americans, who were increasing their influence in the new South Vietnam to counter Communist expansion, supported a new prime minister, Ngo Dinh Diem, who was fiercely opposed to the Communist Viet Minh. Diem destroyed the Binh Xuyen which he perceived as a political threat. With the departure of Le Van Vien and his cohorts, and the closure of Operation X, opium smuggling in bulk from Laos ceased with selling left to petty criminals. The vacuum was quickly filled by the Corsican syndicates who had had representatives in Saigon and Vientiane, the capital of Laos, since the French Expeditionary Corps had arrived in the late 1940s, sent out to fight in the war. Connected to comrades in Marseilles, they had been running gold, gemstones, currency and narcotics between the French port and Saigon throughout hostilities. They instigated a number of small charter air freight companies, collectively referred to as Air Opium (not to be confused with Air America). Some pilots were French criminals and some ex-Resistance fighters from the Second World War, including the famous double agent, Henri Dericourt. Under the leadership of Bonaventure ‘Rock’ Francisci, a Corsican gangster who operated Air Laos Commerciale, they flew morphine base from the golden Triangle to Saigon then freighted it onward by sea to Europe. Whilst the Corsicans were setting up a South-east Asian branch of the French Connection, the government of Ngo Dinh Diem was running short of funds. He legalized opium dens in 1958 and, as other South Vietnamese governments were to do, used the revenue to pay for the fight against the Viet Cong.” – *Opium: A History* by Martin Booth

Binh Xuyen

With their stronghold in the Cholon section near Saigon, **the Binh Xuyen were drug smugglers** who traditionally traded support for legal protection of their rackets, whether they were dealing with the French Empire or the Vietminh nationalists. Their trade was prostitution, gambling casinos, and opium dens. In post-World War II Vietnam, the Binh Xuyen became a powerful political faction under the leadership of Bay Vien. In 1945 the Binh Xuyen provided terrorists to the Vietminh, who assassinated more than 150 French civilians, including women and children. In order to generate the funds necessary to sustain his government, Emperor Bao Dai readily accepted money from the Binh Xuyen, who received legal protection for their rackets in return. Bao Dai made Bay Vien a general in the Vietnamese army and gave him complete authority over the casinos, prostitution, opium traffic, gold smuggling, currency manipulation, and other rackets. The French accepted Bay Vien's authority and even used his private Binh Xuyen army to fight the Vietminh. By the early 1950s, the Binh Xuyen army had reached more than 40,000 soldiers and it was a major political-military faction in southern Vietnam. After securing control of the new government of South Vietnam in the spring of 1955, Ngo Dinh Diem decided to crush the political and religious factions in the South—like the Hoa Hao and Cao Dai—and one of the most powerful was the Binh Xuyen. On April 27, 1955, Diem ordered Bay Vien and the Binh Xuyen to remove its troops from Saigon, and when they refused Diem attacked. The battle raged inside the city, killing more than 500 people and leaving 25,000 without homes. The French

and Bao Dai tried to assist the Binh Xuyen, but Diem prevailed. By the end of May, Bay Vien had fled to Paris and the Binh Xuyen army had been driven into the Mekong Delta, where many of them joined the Vietcong guerrillas.

Source: <http://www.vietnamwar.net/BinhXuyen.htm>



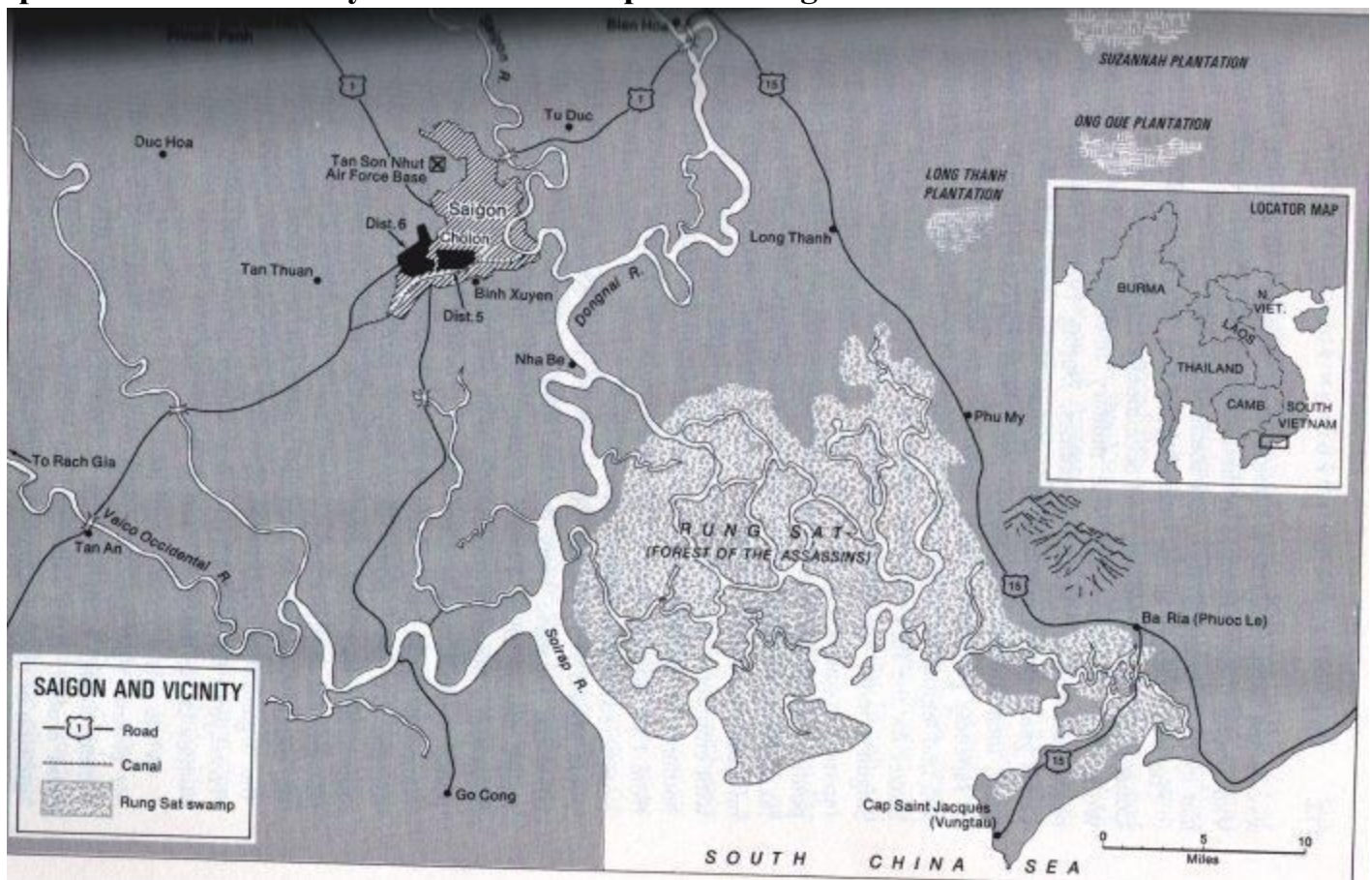
Le Grand Monde Casino in the Cholon District [Chinese District] in Saigon in the early 1950s
(Photo: http://saigon.vietnam.free.fr/saigon_en7.php)



Bay Vien, head of the Binh Xuyen

Excerpts from *The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia* by Alfred W. McCoy (1972)

Chapter 28: The Binh Xuyen: Order and Opium in Saigon



While the history of SDECE and MACGs direct involvement in the tribal opium trade provides an exotic chapter in the history of the narcotics traffic, the involvement of Saigon's Binh Xuyen river pirates was the product of a type of political relationship that has been repeated with alarming frequency over the last half-century—the alliance between governments and gangsters. Just as the relationship between the OSS and the Italian Mafia during World War II and the CIA-Corsican alliance in the early years of the cold war affected the resurrection of the European heroin trade, so the French 2eme Bureau's alliance with the Binh Xuyen allowed Saigon's opium commerce to survive and prosper during the First Indochina War. The 2eme Bureau was not an integral cog in the mechanics of the traffic as MACG had been in the mountains; it remained in the background providing overall political support, allowing the Binh Xuyen to take over the opium dens and establish their own opium references. By 1954 the Binh Xuyen controlled virtually all of Saigon's opium dens and dominated the distribution of prepared opium throughout Cochinchina (the southern part of Vietnam). Since

Cochin China had usually consumed over half of the monopoly's opium, and Saigon with its Chinese twin city, Cholon, had the highest density of smokers in the entire colony. [\(57\)](#) The 2eme Bureau's decision to turn the traffic over to the Binh Xuyen guaranteed the failure of the government's anti-opium campaign and ensured the survival of mass opium addiction in Vietnam.

The 2eme Bureau's pact with the Binh Xuyen was part of a larger French policy of using ethnic, religious, and political factions to deny territory to the Viet Minh. By supplying these splinter groups with arms and money, the French hoped to make them strong enough to make their localities into private fiefs, thereby neutralizing the region and freeing regular combat troops from garrison duty. But Saigon was not just another clump of rice paddies, it was France's "Pearl of the Orient," the richest, most important city in Indochina. In giving Saigon to the Binh Xuyen, block by block, over a six-year period, the French were not just building up another fiefdom, they were making these bandits the key to their hold on all of Cochin China. Hunted through the swamps as river pirates in the 1940s, by 1954 their military commander was director-general of the National Police and their great chief, the illiterate Bay Vien, was nominated as prime minister of Vietnam. The robbers had become the cops, the gangsters the government.

The Binh Xuyen river pirates first emerged in the early 1920s in the marshes and canals along the southern fringes of Saigon-Cholon. They were a loosely organized coalition of pirate gangs, about two hundred to three hundred strong. Armed with old rifles, clubs, and knives, and schooled in Sino-Vietnamese boxing, they extorted protection money from the sampans and junks that traveled the canals on their way to the Cholon docks. Occasionally they sortied into Cholon to kidnap, rob, or shake down a wealthy Chinese merchant. If too sorely pressed by the police or the colonial militia, they could retreat through the streams and canals south of Saigon deep into the impenetrable Rung Sat Swamp at the mouth of the Saigon River, where their reputations as popular heroes among the inhabitants, as well as the maze of mangrove swamps, rendered them invulnerable to capture. [\(58\)](#) If the Binh Xuyen pirates were the Robin Hoods of Vietnam, then the Rung Sat ("Forest of the Assassins") was their Sherwood Forest.

Their popular image was not entirely undeserved, for there is evidence that many of the early outlaws were ordinary contract laborers who had fled from the rubber plantations that sprang up on the northern edge of the Rung Sat during the rubber boom of the 1920s. Insufficient food and brutal work schedules with beatings and torture made most of the plantations little better than slave labor camps; many had an annual death rate higher than 20 percent. [\(59\)](#)

But the majority of those who joined the Binh Xuyen were just ordinary Cholon street toughs, and the career of Le Van Vien ("Bay" Vien) was rather more typical. Born in 1904 on the outskirts of Cholon, Bay Vien found himself alone, uneducated and in need of a job after an inheritance dispute cost him his birthright at age seventeen. He soon fell under the influence of a small-time gangster who found him employment as a chauffeur and introduced him to the leaders of the Cholon underworld. [\(60\)](#) As he established his underworld reputation, Bay Vien was invited to meetings at the house of the underworld kingpin, Duong Van Duong ("Ba" Duong), in the hamlet of Binh Xuyen (which later lent its name to the group), just south of Cholon.

The early history of the Binh Xuyen was an interminable cycle of kidnapping, piracy, pursuit, and occasionally imprisonment until late in World War II, when Japanese military intelligence, the Kempeitai, began dabbling in Vietnamese politics. During 1943-1944 many individual gang leaders managed to ingratiate themselves with the Japanese army, then administering Saigon jointly with the Vichy French. Thanks to Japanese protection, many gangsters were able to come out of hiding and find legitimate employment; Ba Duong, for example, became a labor broker for the Japanese, and under their protection carried out some of Saigon's most spectacular wartime robberies. Other leaders joined Japanese-sponsored political groups, where they became involved in politics for the first time. [\(61\)](#) Many of the Binh Xuyen bandits had already taken a crash course in Vietnamese nationalist politics while imprisoned on Con Son (Puolo Condore) island. Finding themselves sharing cells with embittered political prisoners, they participated, out of boredom if nothing else, in their heated political debates. Bay Vien himself escaped from Con Son in early 1945, and returned to Saigon politicized and embittered toward French colonialism. [\(62\)](#)

On March 9, 1945, the fortunes of the Binh Xuyen improved further when the Japanese army became wary of growing anti-Fascist sentiments among their French military and civilian collaborators and launched a lightning preemptive coup. Within a few hours all French police, soldiers, and civil servants were behind bars, leaving those Vietnamese political groups favored by the Japanese free to organize openly for the first time. Some Binh Xuyen gangsters were given amnesty; others, like Bay Vien, were hired by the newly established Vietnamese government as police agents. Eager for the intelligence, money, and men the Binh Xuyen could provide, almost every political faction courted the organization vigorously. Rejecting overtures by conservatives and Trotskyites, the Binh Xuyen made a decision of considerable importance - they chose the Viet Minh as their allies.

While this decision would have been of little consequence in Tonkin or central Vietnam, where the Communist-dominated Viet Minh was strong enough to stand alone, in Cochin China the Binh Xuyen support was crucial. After launching an abortive revolt in 1940, the Cochin division of the Indochina Communist party had been weakened by mass arrests and executions. [\(63\)](#) When the party began rebuilding at the end of World War II it was already outstripped by more conservative nationalist groups, particularly politicoreligious groups such as the Hoa Hao and Cao Dai. In August 1945 the head of the Viet Minh in Cochin China, Tran Van Giau, convinced Bay

Vien to persuade Ba Duong and the other chiefs to align with the Viet Minh. (64) When the Viet Minh called a mass demonstration on August 25 to celebrate their installation as the new nationalist government, fifteen well-armed, bare-chested bandits carrying a large banner declaring "Binh Xuyen Assassination Committee" joined the tens of thousands of demonstrators who marched jubilantly through downtown Saigon for over nine hours. (65) For almost a month the Viet Minh ran the city, managing its public utilities and patrolling the streets, until late September, when arriving British and French troops took charge.

World War II had come to an abrupt end on August 15, when the Japanese surrendered to the Allies in the wake of atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Allied commanders had been preparing for a long, bloody invasion of the Japanese home islands, and were suddenly faced with the enormous problems of disarming thousands of Japanese troops scattered across East and Southeast Asia. On September 12 some 1,400 Indian Gurkhas and a company of French infantry under the command of British General Douglas D. Gracey were airlifted to Saigon from Burma. Although he was under strict orders to stay out of politics, General Gracey, an arch-colonialist, intervened decisively on the side of the French. When a Viet Minh welcoming committee paid a courtesy call he made no effort to conceal his prejudices. "They came to see me and said 'welcome' and all that sort of thing," he later reported. "It was an unpleasant situation and I promptly kicked them out. (66) Ten days later the British secretly rearmed some fifteen hundred French troops, who promptly executed a coup, reoccupying the city's main public buildings. Backed by Japanese and Indian troops, the French cleared the Viet Minh out of downtown Saigon and began a house-to-house search for nationalist leaders. And with the arrival of French troop ships from Marseille several weeks later, France's reconquest of Indochina began in earnest. (67)

Fearing further reprisals, the Viet Minh withdrew to the west of Saigon, leaving Bay Vien as military commander of Saigon-Cholon. (68) Since at that time the Binh Xuyen consisted of less than a hundred men, the Viet Minh suggested that they merge forces with the citywide nationalist youth movement, the Avant-Garde Youth. (69) After meeting with Bay Vien, one of the Avant-Garde's Saigon leaders, the future police chief Lai Van Sang, agreed that the merger made sense: his two thousand men lacked arms and money, while the wealthy Binh Xuyen lacked rank and file. (70) It was a peculiar alliance; Saigon's toughest criminals were now commanding idealistic young students and intelligentsia. As British and French troops reoccupied downtown Saigon, the Binh Xuyen took up defensive positions along the southern and western edges of the city. Beginning on October 25, French thrusts into the suburbs smashed through their lines and began driving them back into the Rung Sat Swamp. (71) Ba Duong led the amphibious retreat of thousands of Binh Xuyen troops, Avant-Garde Youth, and Japanese deserters deep into the Rung Sat's watery maze. However, they left behind a network of clandestine cells known as "action committees" (formerly "assassination committees") totaling some 250 men.

While Binh Xuyen waterborne guerrillas harassed the canals, the action committees effectively provided intelligence, extorted money, and unleashed political terror. Merchants paid the action committees regular fees for a guarantee of their personal safety, while the famous casino, the Grand Monde, paid \$2,600 a day as insurance that Binh Xuyen terrorists would not toss a grenade into its gaming halls. (72) These contributions, along with arms supplies, enabled the Binh Xuyen to expand their forces to seven full regiments totaling ten thousand men, the largest Viet Minh force in Cochinchina. (73) In 1947, when the Viet Minh decided to launch a wave of terror against French colonists, the Binh Xuyen action committees played a major role in the bombings, knifings, and assaults that punctuated the daily life of Saigon-Cholon. (74)

But despite their important contributions to the revolutionary movement, the Binh Xuyen marriage to the Viet Minh was doomed from the very start. It was not sophisticated ideological disputes that divided them, but rather more mundane squabbles over behavior, discipline, and territory. Relations between Binh Xuyen gangs had always been managed on the principle of mutual respect for each chief's autonomous territory. In contrast, the Viet Minh were attempting to build a mass revolution based on popular participation. Confidence in the movement was a must, and the excesses of any unit commander had to be quickly punished before they could alienate the people and destroy the revolution. On the one hand the brash, impulsive bandit, on the other the disciplined party cadre—a clash was inevitable.

A confrontation came in early 1946 when accusations of murder, extortion and wanton violence against a minor Binh Xuyen chieftain forced the Viet Minh commander, Nguyen Binh, to convene a military tribunal. In the midst of the heated argument between the Binh Xuyen leader Ba Duong and Nguyen Binh, the accused grabbed the Viet Minh commander's pistol and shot himself in the head. Blaming the Viet Minh for his friend's suicide, Ba Duong began building a movement to oust Nguyen Binh, but was strafed and killed by a French aircraft a few weeks later, well before his plans had matured. (75)

Shortly after Ba Duong's death in February 1946, the Binh Xuyen held a mass rally in the heart of the Rung Sat to mourn their fallen leader and elect Bay Vien as his successor. Although Bay Vien had worked closely with the Viet Minh, he was now much more ambitious than patriotic. Bored with being king of the mangrove swamps, Bay Vien and his advisers devised three stratagems for catapulting him to greater heights: they ordered assassination committees to fix their sights on Nguyen Binh; (76) they began working with the Hoa Hao religious group to forge an anti-French, anti-Viet Minh coalition; (77) and they initiated negotiations with the French 2eme Bureau for some territory in Saigon.

The Viet Minh remained relatively tolerant of Bay Vien's machinations until March 1948, when he sent his top advisers to Saigon to negotiate a secret alliance with Captain Savani of the 2eme Bureau. (78) Concealing their knowledge of Bay Vien's betrayal, the Viet Minh invited him to attend a special convocation at their camp in the Plain of Reeds on May 19, Ho Chi Minh's birthday. Realizing that this was a trap, Bay Vien strutted into the meeting surrounded by two hundred of his toughest gangsters. But while he allowed himself the luxury of denouncing Nguyen Binh to his face, the Viet Minh were stealing the Rung Sat. Viet Minh cadres who had infiltrated the Binh Xuyen months before called a mass meeting and exposed Bay Vien's negotiations with the French. The shocked nationalistic students and youths launched a coup on May 28; Bay Vien's supporters were arrested, unreliable units were disarmed and the Rung Sat refuge was turned over to the Viet Minh. Back on the Plain of Reeds, Bay Vien sensed an ugly change of temper in the convocations, massed his bodyguards, and fled toward the Rung Sat pursued by Viet Minh troops. (79) En route he learned that his refuge was lost and changed direction, arriving on the outskirts of Saigon on June 10. Hounded by pursuing Viet Minh columns, and aware that return to the Rung Sat was impossible, Bay Vien found himself on the road to Saigon.

Unwilling to join with the French openly and be labeled a collaborator, Bay Vien hid in the marshes south of Saigon for several days until 2eme Bureau agents finally located him. Bay Vien may have lost the Rung Sat, but his covert action committees remained a potent force in Saigon-Cholon and made him invaluable to the French. Captain Savani (who had been nicknamed "the Corsican bandit" by French officers) visited the Binh Xuyen leader in his hideout and argued, "Bay Vien, there's no other way out. You have only a few hours of life left if you don't sign With US. (80) The captain's logic was irrefutable; on June 16 a French staff car drove Bay Vien to Saigon, where he signed a prepared declaration denouncing the Communists as traitors and avowing his loyalty to the present emperor, Bao Dai. (81) Shortly afterward, the French government announced that it "had decided to confide the police and maintenance of order to the Binh Xuyen troops in a zone where they are used to operating" and assigned them a small piece of territory along the southern edge of Cholon (82)

In exchange for this concession, eight hundred gangsters who had rallied to Bay Vien from the Rung Sat, together with the covert action committees, assisted the French in a massive and enormously successful sweep through the twin cities in search of Viet Minh cadres, cells, and agents. As Bay Vien's chief political adviser, Lai Huu Tai, explained, "Since we had spent time in the maquis and fought there, we also knew how to organize the counter maquis. (83)

But once the operation was finished, Bay Vien, afraid of being damned as a collaborator, retired to his slender turf and refused to budge. The Binh Xuyen refused to set foot on any territory not ceded to them and labeled an independent "nationalist zone." In order to avail themselves of the Binh Xuyen's unique abilities as an urban counterintelligence and security force, the French were obliged to turn over Saigon-Cholon block by block. By April 1954 the Binh Xuyen military commander, Lai Van Sang, was director-general of police, and the Binh Xuyen controlled the capital region and the sixty-mile strip between Saigon and Cap Saint Jacques. Since the Binh Xuyen's pacification technique required vast amounts of money to bribe thousands of informers, the French allowed them carte blanche to plunder the city. In giving the Binh Xuyen this economic and political control over Saigon, the French were not only eradicating the Viet Minh, but creating a political counterweight to Vietnamese nationalist parties gaining power as a result of growing American pressure for political and military Vietnamization. (84) By 1954 the illiterate, bullnecked Bay Vien had become the richest man in Saigon and the key to the French presence in Cochinchina. Through the Binh Xuyen, the French 2eme Bureau countered the growing power of the nationalist parties, kept Viet Minh terrorists off the streets, and battled the American CIA for control of South Vietnam. Since the key to the Binh Xuyen's power was money, and quite a lot of it, their economic evolution bears examination.

The Binh Xuyen's financial hold over Saigon was similar in many respects to that of American organized crime in New York City. The Saigon gangsters used their power over the streets to collect protection money and to control the transportation industry, gambling, prostitution, and narcotics. But while American gangsters prefer to maintain a low profile, the Binh Xuyen flaunted their power: their green-bereted soldiers strutted down the streets, opium dens and gambling casinos operated openly, and a government minister actually presided at the dedication of the Hall of Mirrors, the largest brothel in Asia.

Probably the most important Binh Xuyen economic asset was the gambling and lottery concession controlled through two sprawling casinos - the Grand Monde in Cholon and the Cloche d'Or in Saigon-which were operated by the highest bidder for the annually awarded franchise. the Grand Monde had been opened in 1946 at the insistence of the governor-general of Indochina, Adm. Thierry d'Argenlieu, in order to finance the colonial government of Cochinchina. (85) The franchise was initially leased to a Macao Chinese gambling syndicate, which made payoffs to all of Saigon's competing political forces-the Binh Xuyen, Emperor Bao Dai, prominent cabinet ministers, and even the Viet Minh. In early 1950 Bay Vien suggested to Capt. Antoine Savani that payments to the Viet Minh could be ended if he were awarded the franchise. (86) The French agreed, and Bay Vien's political adviser, Lai Huu Tai (Lai Van Sang's brother), met with Emperor Bao Dai and promised him strong economic and political support if he agreed to support the measure. But when Bao Dai made the proposal to President Huu and the governor of Cochinchina, they refused their consent, since both of them received stipends from the Macao Chinese. However, the Binh Xuyen broke the deadlock in their own inimitable fashion: they advised the Chinese franchise holders that the Binh Xuyen police would no longer protect the casinos from Viet Minh terrorists (87) kidnapped the head of the Macao syndicate, (88) and, finally, pledged to continue everybody's stipends. After agreeing to pay the

government a \$200,000 deposit and \$20,000 a day, the Binh Xuyen were awarded the franchise on December 31, 1950. (89) Despite these heavy expenses, the award of the franchise was an enormous economic coup; shortly before the Grand Monde was shut down by a new regime in 1955, knowledgeable French observers estimated that it was the most profitable casino in Asia, and perhaps in the world. (90)

Sometime after 1950 the French military awarded the Binh Xuyen another lucrative colonial asset, Saigon's opium commerce. The Binh Xuyen started processing MACG's raw Meo opium and distributing prepared smokers' opium to hundreds of dens scattered throughout the twin cities. (91) They paid a fixed percentage of their profits to Emperor Bao Dai, the French 2eme Bureau, and the MACG commandos. The CIA's Colonel Lansdale later reported that:

"The Binh Xuyen were participating in one of the world's major arteries of the dope traffic, helping move the prize opium crops out of Laos and South China. The profits were so huge that Bao Dai's tiny cut was ample to keep him in yachts, villas, and other comforts in France." (92)

The final Binh Xuyen asset was* prostitution. They owned and operated a wide variety of brothels, all the way from small, intimate villas staffed with attractive young women for generals and diplomats down to the Hall of Mirrors, whose twelve hundred inmates and assemblyline techniques made it one of the largest and most profitable in Asia. (93) The brothels not only provided income, they also yielded a steady flow of political and military intelligence.

In reviewing Bay Vien's economic activities in 1954, (94) the French 2eme Bureau concluded:

"In summary, the total of the economic potential built up by General Le Van (Bay) Vien has succeeded in following exactly the rules of horizontal and vertical monopolization so dear to American consortiums." (95)

"Bay Vien's control over Saigon-Cholon had enabled him to build "a multi-faceted business enterprise whose economic potential constitutes ... one of the most solid economic forces in South Vietnam." (96)

After having allowed the Binh Xuyen to develop this financial empire, the 2eme Bureau witnessed its liquidation during the desperate struggle it waged with the CIA for control of Saigon and South Vietnam. Between April 28 and May 3, 1955, the Binh Xuyen and the Vietnamese army (ARVN) fought a savage house-to-house battle for control of Saigon-Cholon. More troops were involved in this battle than in the Tet offensive of 1968, and the fighting was almost as destructive. (97) In the six days of fighting five hundred persons were killed, two thousand wounded, and twenty thousand left homeless. (98) Soldiers completely disregarded civilians and leveled whole neighborhoods with artillery, mortars, and heavy machine guns. And when it was all over the Binh Xuyen had been driven back into the Rung Sat and Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem was master of Saigon.

This battle had been a war by proxy; the Binh Xuyen and Diem's ARVN were stand-ins, mere pawns, in a power struggle between the French 2eme Bureau and the American CIA. Although there were longstanding tactical disagreements between the French and Americans, at the ambassadorial and governmental levels, there was an atmosphere of friendliness and flexibility that was not to be found in their respective intelligence agencies.

Prior to the French debacle at Dien Bien Phu the two governments had cooperated with a minimum of visible friction in Indochina. During the early 1950s the United States paid 78 percent of the cost for maintaining the French Expeditionary Corps and hundreds of American advisers served with French units. After Dien Bien Phu and Geneva, however, the partnership began to crumble.

France resigned herself to granting full independence to her former colony, and agreed at Geneva to withdraw from the northern half of the country and hold an all-Vietnam referendum in 1956-an election the Viet Minh were sure to win-to determine who would rule the unified nation. Under the guidance of Premier Mendes-France, France planned "a precedent-setting experiment in coexistence"; she would grant the Viet Minh full control over Vietnam by adhering strictly to the Geneva Accords, and then work closely with Ho Chi Minh "to preserve French cultural influence and salvage French capital. (99) Needless to say, the French premier's plans did not sit well in a U.S. State Department operating on Secretary John Foster Dulles' anti-Communist first principles. Fundamental policy disagreements began to develop between Washington and Paris, though there was no open conflict.

The Pentagon Papers have summarized the points of disagreement between Washington and Paris rather neatly. All the foregoing tension resolved to two central issues between the United States and France. The first was the question of how and by whom Vietnam's armed forces were to be trained. The second, and more far reaching, was whether Ngo Dinh Diem was to remain at the head of Vietnam's government or whether he was to be replaced by another nationalist leader more sympathetic to Bao Dai and France. (100)

The first question was resolved soon after Special Ambassador Gen. J. Lawton Collins arrived in Vietnam on November 8, 1954. The Americans were already supplying most of ARVN's aid, and French High Commissioner Gen. Paul Ely readily agreed to turn the training over to the Americans.

The second question-whether Diem should continue as premier provoked the CIA-2eme Bureau war of April 1955. Diem was a political unknown who had acceded to the premiership largely because Washington was convinced that his strong anti-Communist, anti-French beliefs best suited American interests. But the immediate problem for Diem and the Americans was control of Saigon. If Diem were to be of any use to the Americans in blocking the unification of Vietnam, he would have to wrest control of the streets from the Binh Xuyen. For whoever controlled the streets controlled Saigon, and whoever controlled Saigon held the key to Vietnam's rice-rich Mekong Delta.

While the French and American governments politely disavowed any self-interest and tried to make even their most partisan suggestions seem a pragmatic response to the changing situation in Saigon, both gave their intelligence agencies a free hand to see if Saigon's reality could be molded in their favor. Behind the smiles on the diplomatic front, Colonel Lansdale, of the CIA, and the French 2eme Bureau, particularly Captain Savani, engaged in a savage clandestine battle for Saigon.

In the movie version of Graham Greene's novel on this period, *The Quiet American*, Colonel Lansdale was played by the World War II combat hero, Audie Murphy. Murphy's previous roles as the typical American hero in dozens of black hat-white hat westerns enabled him accurately to project the evangelistic anti-Communism so characteristic of Lansdale. What Murphy did not portray was Lansdale's mastery of the CIA's repertoire of "dirty tricks" to achieve limited political ends. When Lansdale arrived in Saigon in May 1954 he was fresh from engineering President Ramon Magsaysay's successful counterinsurgency campaign against the Philippine Communist party. As the prophet of a new counterinsurgency doctrine and representative of a wealthy government, Lansdale was a formidable opponent.

In seeking to depose Bay Vien, Colonel Lansdale was not just challenging the 2eme Bureau, he was taking on Saigon's Corsican community – Corsican businessmen, Corsican colonists, and the Corsican underworld. From the late nineteenth century onward, Corsicans had dominated the Indochina civil service. (101) At the end of World War II, Corsican resistance fighters, some of them gangsters, had joined the regular army and come to Indochina with the Expeditionary Corps. Many remained in Saigon after their enlistment to go into legitimate business or to reap profits from the black market and smuggling that flourished under wartime conditions. Those with strong underworld connections in Marseille were able to engage in currency smuggling between the two ports. The Marseille gangster Barthelemy Guerini worked closely with contacts in Indochina to smuggle Swiss gold to Asia immediately after World War II. (102) Moreover, Corsican gangsters close to Corsican officers in Saigon's 2eme Bureau purchased surplus opium and shipped it to Marseille, where it made a small contribution to the city's growing heroin industry. (103)

The unchallenged leader of Saigon's Corsican underworld was the eminently respectable Mathieu Franchini. Owner of the exclusive Continental Palace Hotel, Franchini made a fortune playing the piaster-gold circuit between Saigon and Marseille during the First Indochina War. (104) He became the Binh Xuyen's investment counselor and managed a good deal of their opium and gambling profits. When Bay Vien's fortune reached monumental proportions, Franchini sent him to Paris where "new found Corsican friends gave him good advice about investing his surplus millions." (105) And according to reliable Vietnamese sources, it was Franchini who controlled most of Saigon's opium exports to Marseille. Neither he nor his associates could view with equanimity the prospect of an American takeover.

Many people within the 2eme Bureau had worked as much as eight years building up sect armies like the Binh Xuyen; many Corsicans outside the military had businesses, positions, rackets, and power that would be threatened by a decline in French influence. While they certainly did not share Premier Mendes France's ideas of cooperation with the Viet Minh, they were even more hostile to the idea of turning things over to the Americans.

When Lansdale arrived in Saigon in May 1954 he faced the task of building an alternative to the mosaic of religious armies and criminal gangs that had ruled South Vietnam in the latter years of the war. Ngo Dinh Diem's appointment as premier in July gave Lansdale the lever he needed. Handpicked by the Americans, Diem was strongly anti-French and uncompromisingly anti-Communist. However, he had spent most of the last decade in exile and had few political supporters and almost no armed forces. Premier in name only, Diem controlled only the few blocks of downtown Saigon surrounding the presidential palace. The French and their clients-ARVN, the Binh Xuyen, and the armed religious sects, Cao Dai and Hoa Hao-could easily mount an anti-Diem coup if he threatened their interests. Lansdale proceeded to fragment his opposition's solid front and to build Diem an effective military apparatus. French control over the army was broken and Col. Duong Van Minh ("Big Minh"), an American sympathizer, was recruited to lead the attacks on the Binh Xuyen. By manipulating payments to the armed religious sects, Lansdale was able to neutralize most of them, leaving the Binh Xuyen as the only French pawn. The Binh Xuyen financed themselves largely from their vice rackets, and their

loyalty could not be manipulated through financial pressures. But, deserted by ARVN and the religious sects, the Binh Xuyen were soon crushed.

Lansdale's victory did not come easily. Soon after he arrived he began sizing up his opponent's financial and military strength. Knowing something of the opium trade's importance as a source of income for French clandestine services, he now began to look more closely at Operation X with the help of a respected Cholon Chinese banker. But the banker was abruptly murdered and Lansdale dropped the inquiry. There was reason to believe that the banker had gotten too close to the Corsicans; involved, and they killed him to prevent the information from getting any further. [\(106\)](#)

An attempted anti-Diem coup in late 1954 led to Lansdale's replacing the palace guard. After the Embassy approved secret funding (later estimated at \$2 million), Lansdale convinced a Cao Dai dissident named Trinh Minh The to offer his maquis near the Cambodian border as a refuge in case Diem was ever forced to flee Saigon. [\(107\)](#) When the impending crisis between the French and the Americans threatened Diem's security in the capital, The moved his forces into the city as a permanent security force in February 1955 and paraded 2,500 of his barefoot soldiers through downtown Saigon to demonstrate his loyalty to the premier. [\(108\)](#) The 2eme Bureau was outraged at Lansdale's support for The. Practicing what Lansdale jocularly referred to as the "unorthodox doctrine of zapping a commander," [\(109\)](#) The had murdered French General Chanson in 1951 and had further incensed the French when he blew up a car in 1953 in downtown Saigon, killing a number of passersby. 2eme Bureau officers personally visited Lansdale to warn him that they would kill TM, and they "usually added the pious hope that I would be standing next to him when he was gunned down." [\(110\)](#)

On February 11, 1955, the French army abdicated its financial controls and training responsibilities for ARVN to the United States, losing not only the ARVN but control of the Hoa Hao and Cao Dai religious sects as well. Approximately 20,000 of them had served as supplementary forces to the French and Vietnamese army, [\(111\)](#) and had been paid directly by the 2eme Bureau. Now, with their stipends cut and their numbers reduced, they were to be integrated into ARVN, where they would be controlled by Diem and his American advisers.

Lansdale was given \$8.6 million to pay back salaries and "bonuses" to sect commanders who cooperated in "integrating" into the ARVN. [\(112\)](#) Needless to say, this aroused enormous hostility on the part of the French. When Lansdale met with General Gambiez of the French army to discuss the sect problem, the tensions were obvious:

"We sat at a small table in his office.... A huge Alsatian dog crouched under it. Gambiez informed me that at one word from him, the dog would attack me, being a trained killer. I asked Gambiez to please note that my hands were in my pockets as I sat at the table; I had a small 25 automatic pointing at his stomach which would tickle him fatally. Gambiez called off his dog and I put my hands on the table. We found we could work together." [\(113\)](#)

By February the 2eme Bureau realized that they were gradually losing to Lansdale's team, so they tried to discredit him as an irresponsible adventurer in the eyes of his own government by convening an unprecedented secret agents' tribunal. But the session was unsuccessful, and the 2eme Bureau officers were humiliated; their animosity toward Lansdale was, no doubt, intensified. [\(114\)](#)

But the French were not yet defeated, and late in February they mounted a successful counteroffensive. When Diem refused to meet the sects' demands for financial support and integration into ARVN, the French seized the opportunity and brought all the sect leaders together in Tay Ninh on February 22, where they formed the United Front and agreed to work for Diem's overthrow. Money was to be provided by the Binh Xuyen. When a month of fruitless negotiations failed to wring any concessions from Diem, the United Front sent a five-day ultimatum to Diem demanding economic and political reforms. [\(115\)](#) Suddenly the lethargic quadrille of political intrigue was over and the time for confrontation was at hand.

Lansdale was now working feverishly to break up the United Front and was meeting with Diem regularly. [\(116\)](#) With the help of the CIA station chief, Lansdale put together a special team to tackle the Binh Xuyen, the financial linchpin of the United Front. Lansdale recruited a former Saigon police chief named Mai Huu Xuan, who had formed the Military Security Service (MSS) with two hundred to three hundred of his best detectives when the Binh Xuyen took over the police force in 1954. Embittered by four years of losing to the Binh Xuyen, the MSS began a year-long battle with the Binh Xuyen's action committees. Many of these covert cells had been eliminated by April 1955, a factor that Xuan feels was critical in the Binh Xuyen's defeat. [\(117\)](#) Another of Lansdale's recruits was Col. Duong Van Minh, the commander for Saigon-Cholon. Lansdale made ample discretionary funds available to Minh, whom he incorporated in his plans to assault the Binh Xuyen. [\(118\)](#)

The fighting began on March 28 when a pro-Diem paratroop company attacked the Binh Xuyen-occupied police headquarters. The Binh Xuyen counterattacked the following night and began with a mortar attack on the presidential palace at midnight. When French tanks rolled into the city several hours later to impose a cease-fire agreed to by the United States, Lansdale protested bitterly to Ambassador Collins, "explaining that only the Binh Xuyen would gain by a cease fire." [\(119\)](#)

For almost a month French tanks and troops kept the Binh Xuyen and ARVN apart. Then on April 27 Ambassador Collins met with Secretary of State Dulles in Washington and told him that Diem's obstinacy was the reason for the violent confrontation in Saigon. Dismayed, Dulles cabled Saigon that the U.S. was no longer supporting Diem. (120) A few hours after this telegram arrived, Diem's troops attacked Binh Xuyen units, and drove them out of downtown Saigon into neighboring Cholon. Elated by Diem's easy victory, Dulles cabled Saigon his full support for Diem. The Embassy burned his earlier telegram. (121)

During the fighting of April 28 Lansdale remained in constant communication with the presidential palace, while his rival, Captain Savani, moved into the Binh Xuyen headquarters at the Y Bridge in Cholon, where he took command of the bandit battalions and assigned his officers to accompany Binh Xuyen troops in the house-to-house fighting. (122) The Binh Xuyen radio offered a reward to anyone who could bring Lansdale to their headquarters where, Bay Vien promised, his stomach would be cut open and his entrails stuffed with mud. (123)

On May 2 the fighting resumed as ARVN units penetrated Cholon, leveling whole city blocks and pushing the Binh Xuyen steadily backward. Softened by years of corruption, the Binh Xuyen bandits were no longer the tough guerrillas of a decade before. Within a week most of them had retreated back into the depths of the Rung Sat Swamp.

Although the war between Diem and Bay Vien was over, the struggle between Lansdale and the Corsicans was not quite finished. True to the Corsican tradition, the defeated French launched a vendetta against the entire American community. As Lansdale describes it:

A group of soreheads among the French in Saigon undertook a spiteful terror campaign against American residents. Grenades were tossed at night into the yards of houses where Americans lived. American owned automobiles were blown up or booby-trapped. French security officials blandly informed nervous American officials that the terrorist activity was the work of the Viet Minh. (124)

A sniper put a bullet through Lansdale's car window as he was driving through Saigon, a Frenchman who resembled him was machine-gunned to death in front of Lansdale's house by a passing car. When Lansdale was finally able to determine who the ringleaders were (many of them were intelligence officers), grenades started going off in front of their houses in the evenings. (125)

During his May 8-11, 1955, meeting with French Premier Edgar Faure in Paris, Dulles asserted his continuing support for Diem, and both agreed that France and the United States would pursue independent policies in Indochina. The partnership was over; France would leave, and the United States would remain in Vietnam in order to back Diem. (126)

Diem's victory brought about a three-year respite in large-scale opium trafficking in Vietnam. Without the Binh Xuyen and Operation X managing the trade, bulk smuggling operations from Laos came to an end and distribution in Saigon of whatever opium was available became the province of petty criminals. Observers also noticed a steady decline in the number of opium dens operating in the capital region. But although American press correspondents described the Binh Xuyen-Diem conflict as a morality play-a clash between the honest, moral Premier Diem and corrupt, dope-dealing "super bandits"-the Binh Xuyen were only a superficial manifestation of a deeper problem, and their eviction from Saigon produced little substantive change. (127)

For over eighty years French colonialism had interwoven the vice trades with the basic fabric of the Vietnamese economy by using them as legitimate sources of government tax revenue. During the late 1940s the French simply transferred them from the legitimate economy to the underworld, where they have remained a tempting source of revenue for political organizations ever since. By exploiting the rackets for the French, the Binh Xuyen had developed the only effective method ever devised for countering urban guerrilla warfare in Saigon. Their formula was a combination of crime and counterinsurgency: control over the municipal police allowed systematic exploitation of the vice trade; the rackets generated large sums of ready cash; and money bought an effective network of spies, informants, and assassins.

The system worked so well for the Binh Xuyen that in 1952 Viet Minh cadres reported that their activities in Saigon had come to a virtual standstill because the bandits had either bought off or killed most of their effective organizers. (128) When the Diem administration was faced with large-scale insurgency in 1958 it reverted to the Binh Xuyen formula, and government clandestine services revived the opium trade with Laos to finance counterinsurgency operations. Faced with similar problems in 1965. Premier Ky's adviser, General Loan, would use the same methods. (129)

Source: <http://www.drugtext.org/library/books/McCoy/book/28.htm>



The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was involved in various drug trafficking operations in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and other areas of Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. Some of the drugs brought to South Vietnam were later exported to the United States of America and sold to unsuspecting Americans during the Turbulent 1960s. The CIA used illicit drug profits to finance various covert operations in South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

“One day in 1967 at the place where Burma, Thailand, and Laos meet – a conjunction that gives the Golden Triangle its name – an SUA [Shan United Army] caravan with 16 tons of opium, coming south from Burma, sought to avoid paying the customary tax to the KMT [Kuomintang]. So the SUA crossed the Mekong River into Laos; the KMT gave chase. At the height of the fight, at the village of Ban Khwan; Lao warplanes swooped in, dropping bombs. Then came Lao paratroopers, seizing the opium; it went to the commander in chief of the Royal Lao Army, who was in the opium business too.”

– National Geographic magazine, February 1985, *The Poppy: For Good and Evil*, p. 170

“The Cold War played a direct and prominent role in the production and trafficking of illicit drugs. Indeed, the financing of many anti-Communist covert operations, such as those led by the CIA, derived from the drug economy that existed in various proxy states where trafficking was often condoned and even encouraged. Specific historical examples illustrated how the anti-Communist agenda of the CIA played a decisive role in stimulating the global illicit drug trade. These include the French Connection and the role of the Corsican mafia against Communists in France and in Southeast Asia (Laos and Vietnam), the propping up of the defeated KMT [Kuomintang] in northern Burma, the Islamic mujahideen resistance in Afghanistan and, on another continent, the Contras in Nicaragua. The United States, as the leader of the global struggle against communism, made extensive use of its special services and intelligence agencies to conduct covert operations worldwide. In the global struggle to contain communism, local aid was needed and widely found in the form of local criminal organizations. The first such case dates back to the early 1930s, when New York’s organized crime kingpins – Salvatore Lucania a.k.a. Charles ‘Lucky’ Luciano, and Meyer Lansky – trafficked heroin exported from China to support Chiang Kai-shek’s KMT in the civil war there. Luciano was jailed in 1936 in the United States, not long before trafficking in Chinese heroin was considerably disrupted by World War II. It was during World War II that the American Office of Naval Intelligence cooperated with Luciano: he was to be freed after the war so long as he ordered his thugs to watch U.S. docks and ports to protect them from Nazi saboteurs. Then, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the precursor to the CIA, used mafia assistance in the Allied invasion of Sicily. Such activities initiated what was to become a long-term feature of covert operations led by United States intelligence services when consent of the United States Congress could not be obtained: the enlistment of nefarious groups engaged in illicit activities in order to wage secret wars through both proxies and alternative funding. Basically, drug traffickers were useful to special services and politicians, and in turn relied on such connections to expand their activities. Luciano was freed in 1946 and sent to Sicily where he was to cooperate with the CIA. Indeed, to counter the growing communist influence in France and Italy, the CIA turned to the mafia and condoned its drug trafficking activities. The CIA soon asked Luciano to use his connections in France to break the strikes led by socialist unions in Marseille’s docks, from which arms and supplies were sent to Indochina. The sometimes violent assistance of Corsican mobsters in cracking down on the unions was especially motivated by their involvement in the opium business in Indochina and by the smuggling of raw opium from Turkey to Marseille, where it was refined into heroin for export to the United States. Luciano took advantage of such high refining capacities and helped turn Marseille into the heroin capital of Europe. These Marseille syndicates, dubbed the ‘French Connection’, supplied the United States heroin market for two decades. But it is in Southeast Asia, Southwest Asia, and Latin America that the CIA most significantly influenced the illicit drug trade. Its anti-Communist covert operations benefited from the participation of a number of drug-related combat units who, to finance their own struggle, were directly involved in illicit drug production and trafficking. The CIA’s backing of different groups in the drug trade (for example, the Hmong in Laos, the KMT in Burma and the mujahideen in Afghanistan), inferred that the agency condoned the use of drug proceeds and the increase in opiate production in Asia. However, no evidence has surfaced to suggest that the CIA condoned or facilitated the export of heroin to the United States or Europe, as clearly happened with cocaine and the Nicaraguan Contras.”

– *Opium: Uncovering the Politics of the Poppy* by Pierre-Arnaud Chouvy, p. 94-96 (published in 2010)

“In October 1949, the Communists defeated the KMT in China, and in the years that followed they cracked down on what was then the world’s largest opium production network. Opium production then shifted to the mountainous and frontier areas of Burma, Laos, and Thailand, where KMT remnants had fled and become deeply involved in drug trafficking. Beginning in 1951, the CIA supported the KMT in Burma in an unsuccessful effort to assist it in regaining a foothold in China’s Yunnan province. Arms, ammunition, and supplies were flowed into Burma from Thailand by the CIA’s Civil Air Transport (CAT), later renamed Air America and, still later, Sea Supply Corporation, created to mask the shipments. The Burmese Army eventually drove KMT remnants from Burma in 1961, but the latter resettled in Laos and northern Thailand and continued to run most of the opium trade. CAT not only supplied military aid to the KMT: it also flew opium to Thailand and Taiwan. There is no doubt that the CIA sanctioned both the KMT’s involvement in the opium trade and the use of CAT (and later Air America aircraft) in that trade. The KMT would eventually enlarge its role in the opium trade after the CIA’s withdrawal of financial and logistical support. Burma eventually became one of the world’s two main opium producers. Following the French defeat in Indochina in 1954, the United States gradually took over the intelligence and military fight against communism in both Laos and Vietnam. It also took over the drug trafficking business developed by the French by the buying the opium produced by the Hmong and Yao hill tribes in return for help with counterinsurgency operations against the Viet Minh. To meet the costs of this war, the French secret intelligence service, the SDECE (Service de documentation extérieure et de contre-espionnage), had allied itself with the Corsican syndicates, trafficking opium from Indochina to Marseille in order to gain control of the opium trade that the colonial government had outlawed in 1946. The CIA ran its secret army in Laos, composed largely of Hmong tribesmen led by General Vang Pao. Air America would fly arms to the Hmong and fly back their opium to the CIA base at Long Tieng, where Vang Pao had set up a large heroin laboratory. Some of the heroin was then flown to South Vietnam, where part of it was sold to U.S.

troops. After the Americans pulled out of Vietnam in 1975, Laos became the world's third largest opium producer and retained this rank until the mid-2000s.

– *Opium: Uncovering the Politics of the Poppy* by Pierre-Arnaud Chouvy, p. 96-97 (published in 2010)

“However, Vietnam was not the only battleground of Cold War drug operations. The CIA launched a major new covert operation in Southwest Asia in the early 1980s to support Afghanistan’s mujahideen guerillas in their fight against Soviet occupation. United States President, Ronald Reagan, was determined to counter what he viewed as Soviet hegemony and expansionism, a goal shared by his CIA director, William Casey. To support the mujahideen with arms and funds, the CIA turned to one of Pakistan’s intelligence services, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). The ISI chose which Afghan leaders to back and used trucks from Pakistan’s military National Logistics Cell (NLC) to carry arms from Karachi to the Afghan border. However, the ISI not only chose Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, an important Afghan opium trafficker, as its main beneficiary: it also allowed NLC trucks to return from the border loaded with opium and heroin. After the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1989, United States aid to the mujahideen stopped, and the internecine conflict that ensued in the country favoured an increase in opium production in order to maintain rival warlords and armies. Afghanistan eventually became the world’s leading opium-producing country. As Jill Jonnes puts it: *In the years before World War II, American international narcotics policy had been extremely straightforward. The United States was righteously against anything that promoted or sustained the non-medical use of addicting drugs. But the Cold War created not only new national security policies, but a new shadow world that accepted a far more ambivalent attitude toward drugs and drug trafficking.* Illicit drug production and trafficking increased during the Cold War. During this period, the United States government was less interested in waging the ‘war on drugs’ begun in 1971 by Richard Nixon than in using drug traffickers to support its war and proxies abroad. Indeed, had the CIA cracked down on drug trafficking during the Cold War, it would have forgone valuable intelligence sources, political influence and much needed funding for its covert, and sometimes illegal, operations. Ironically, there is no evidence that the Soviet Union or its secret intelligence agency, the KGB (Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti), resorted to drug sales to fund activities during the Cold War. Thus, after the modern international narcotics trafficking industry emerged in pre-Second World War China, and after communism had enabled the People’s Republic of China to suppress local opium production, trafficking and consumption, it was the Cold War fight against communism that provide the justification for using proceeds from opium production and trafficking to finance covert operations and secret wars. In the third edition of *The Politics of Heroin*, Alfred McCoy writes: *Rhetoric about the drug evil and the moral imperative of its extirpation has been matched by a paradoxical willingness to subordinate or even sacrifice the cause for more questionable goals. The same governments that seem to rail most sternly against drugs, such as Nationalist China in the 1930s and the United States since the 1940s, have frequently formed covert alliances with drug traffickers.* In his effort to reveal the extent of the ‘CIA complicity in the global drug trade’ McCoy then explains that ‘nowhere is this contradiction between social idealism and political realism more evident than in the clash between prohibition and protection during the cold war’. However, the end of the Cold War would not reduce illicit opium production in Asia, as the end of foreign subsidies to warring Afghan factions largely stimulated opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. During most of the twentieth century, wars and conflicts fostered illicit opium production and made peace-building more difficult, as war economies and drug economies fed each other in a vicious circle.”

– *Opium: Uncovering the Politics of the Poppy* by Pierre-Arnaud Chouvy, p. 97-98 (published in 2010)



Left: CIA Director Allen Dulles greets his brother U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

Right: U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles reviews a map of French Indochina at a conference.

